



ISRAEL PLANNING A 'HUMANITARIAN WINDOW' IN GAZA

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ASSAD SWORN IN, DECLARES VICTORY IN SYRIA ELECTION

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Aruba TODAY

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Punishing Measures

President Barack Obama enters the briefing room to speak about foreign policy and escalating sanctions against Russia in response to the crisis in Ukraine in the James Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House in Washington, Wednesday, July 16, 2014.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

Obama Widens Sanctions Against Russia

PETER BAKER

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WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama escalated sanctions against Russia on Wednesday by targeting a series of large banks and energy and defense firms in what officials described as the most punishing mea-

sures put forth to date for Moscow's intervention in Ukraine.

While the latest moves do not cut off entire sectors of the Russian economy, as threatened in the past, the administration's actions go significantly further than the financial and travel lim-

its imposed so far on several dozen individuals and their businesses.

The new measures will severely restrict access to U.S. debt markets for the targeted companies.

"We have emphasized our preference to resolve this issue diplomatically, but we

have to see concrete actions and not just words," Obama told reporters on Wednesday evening in remarks in the White House briefing room.

He repeated that Russia needed to halt the flow of fighters and weapons across the border and sup-

port peace talks. "So far, Russia has failed to take any of the steps that I have mentioned.

In fact, Russia's support for the separatists and violations of Ukraine's sovereignty has continued."

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With Gaza invasion still likely;

Israel to pause bombing campaign Thursday

JODI RUDOREN

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TEL AVIV, Israel - After nine days of aerial assaults on Gaza that have killed more than 200 people, Israel announced late Wednesday that it would suspend the attacks for five hours Thursday as a humanitarian gesture at the request of the United Nations. But a senior Israeli military official said the likelihood of a ground invasion to eliminate militants' rockets launched from Gaza was "very high." "If you want to efficiently fight terrorism you must be present, boots on the ground," said the official, who has been briefing Israeli ministers who make strategic decisions. He said his assessment was based on "the signals I get" and the diminishing returns of aerial bombardments. He said an Israeli takeover of Gaza is "not a huge challenge," estimating it would take "a matter of days or weeks," but that preventing a more dangerous devolution in the coastal enclave would require an occupation "of many months." "Every day that passes makes the possibility more evident," the official told a handful of international journalists in a briefing at the military's Tel Aviv headquarters. "We can hurt them very hard

from the air but not get rid of them." He spoke on the condition of anonymity under military protocol. The stark assessment came as Israel bombed 60 tar-

geted food to soldiers Tuesday night near the Erez crossing, was eulogized by Israel's president-elect, Reuven Rivlin, at an afternoon funeral.

and hold their fire. The military said in a statement it would "respond firmly and decisively" if the militants "exploited" the window to attack Israel.



Smoke rises after an Israeli missile strike hit the northern Gaza Strip, Wednesday, July 16, 2014. Israeli war planes and naval vessels intensified attacks across the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, targeting senior Hamas leaders and bombarding a coastal area, where four Palestinian boys were killed.

(AP Photo/Adel Hana)

gets, most of them in northern Gaza, after warning 100,000 residents to evacuate their homes by 8 a.m. via leaflets, text messages and automated telephone calls. The Palestinian death toll reached at least 205 by late afternoon, including four children killed in a strike on the seashore.

The lone Israeli casualty, a 37-year-old man killed by a mortar round as he distrib-

Late Wednesday, the Israeli military announced that it would halt its bombing of Gaza from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday to provide residents with what it called a "humanitarian window." The pause was requested by Robert H. Serry, the U.N. special envoy for the Middle East peace process, who said he would ask militant groups in Gaza to "reciprocate"

Earlier, scores of rockets from Gaza flew into Israel, several of them intercepted by the Iron Dome missile-defense system over Tel Aviv and the southern city of Ashkelon. Hamas, the militant Palestinian faction that dominates Gaza, on Wednesday officially rejected an Egyptian cease-fire proposal that Israel had initially approved Tuesday. □

Iran nuke talks likely to be extended past July 20

GEORGE JAHN

Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Facing stubborn disputes on the terms of a deal, Iran and six world powers have tentatively decided to adjourn their nuclear talks two days early but plan to extend them past their planned July 20 end date, diplomats said Wednesday. Both sides had been prepared to talk until Sunday, the informal deadline for the negotiations. But two diplomats have told The Associated Press the talks will probably wind down Friday, because the differences won't be

bridged by Sunday.

The diplomats demanded anonymity because they were not authorized to divulge confidential information.

One said the two sides opposed going on until the final hours of the informal deadline because they felt that would give the impression they were desperate for a solution.

The talks aim at a deal that curbs Iran's atomic programs in exchange for an end to the nuclear-related sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry spoke of "very real

gaps" Tuesday after two days of meetings with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said that Kerry and President Barack Obama were meeting Wednesday to discuss the "path forward" on the talks.

Obama said Wednesday there are "still significant gaps" and more work to do to reach a deal to get Iran to curb its nuclear program.

He said he will consult with Congress and allies to determine whether negotiations need to be extended after the July 20 deadline.

He said that based on consultations with Kerry and his national security team progress has been made in several areas.

Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany are also participating.

The main dispute is over uranium enrichment, which can make both reactor fuel and the fissile core of nuclear warheads.

Iran says it does not want such arms. Up to last week it insisted being allowed to expand its enrichment program over the next eight years to a level that would need about 190,000 current model centrifuges. □

Curacao searches for attackers in airport shooting

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

KINGSTON,

Jamaica

(AP) — Police in Curacao scoured the arid Dutch Caribbean island Wednesday hunting for gunmen who sprayed bullets at the arrivals area of the international airport, killing two people and wounding six. Two local men were gunned down in the drive-by shooting late Tuesday at Curacao International Airport in the capital of Willemstad. The six wounded were reported in stable condition. Curacao's government said no tourists had been shot, describing the shooting as an "isolated incident" involving local residents. No motive had been disclosed by investigators. The international airport was open Wednesday. The bloodshed unleashed a tide of emotion on the island of roughly 150,000 people. Officials have been struggling for years to contain drug smuggling rings but this kind of violence is relatively rare. "Curacao is deeply saddened with what took place last night," Prime Minister Ivar Asjes said in a statement. Local officials are providing assistance and support "to anyone on the island that might require it," he added.

Police detectives recovered two handguns at the shooting scene and a number of spent bullet casings. Police said the unidentified gunmen sped off in two cars, but authorities released few other details of the investigation and the hunt for suspects on the small island about 40 miles off Venezuela.

The autonomous country within the Dutch kingdom is best known for its diving opportunities and a historic city center that is a U.N. World Heritage site. It is also an offshore financial center offering banking secrecy and a transshipment point for narcotics from South America bound for the U.S. and Europe. □

Bergdahl hires lawyer for Army investigation

LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The lawyer representing Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl said Wednesday that his client has been vilified by some people, but the public should not leap to conclusions before the U.S. Army finishes its investigation into how and why the soldier left his post in Afghanistan before being captured by the Taliban.

Eugene R. Fidell, a well-known lawyer and military justice expert, told Associated Press Television News that he assumes the probe will be done in several weeks.

"There are people who have vilified Sgt. Bergdahl, there are people who attempted to turn him into a kind of piñata," said Fidell, who teaches at Yale Law School.

"On the other hand, there are people of goodwill who have communicated with me their sympathy for the experience Sgt. Bergdahl has had to undergo, the ordeal, really."

Some former members of the unit Bergdahl served with in Afghanistan have called him a deserter, asserting that he chose to walk away and saying some service members were wounded or killed looking for him.

An initial U.S. military investigation in 2009 concluded that Bergdahl deliberately walked away from his unit, based on evidence available at the time.

The Army has not ruled out disciplinary action against Bergdahl, who was promoted during captivity, from private first class to sergeant, as a matter of standard procedure.

"Let the facts unfold a little bit," said Fidell, adding that he has met with Bergdahl as well as the Army officer handling the case, Maj. Gen. Kenneth R. Dahl.

He said Dahl is proceeding in a "methodical and professional way."

"The Pentagon says Bergdahl has not yet met with Dahl. □

Obama widens sanctions against Russia

Continued from front

Among the firms targeted were some of the most prominent in Russia, including Rosneft, the state-

President Vladimir V. Putin and a top official in the Federal Security Service; an oil shipping facility in Crimea, which Moscow annexed; a pro-Russian

painful and serious."

The moves were coordinated with European leaders, who were meeting in Brussels on Wednesday to consider their own package of

actions, even if not as stringent as their own, should be seen as a sign of continuing solidarity in the face of Russian provocation in Ukraine. The synchronized actions were arranged during a Tuesday telephone call between Obama and Germany's chancellor, Angela Merkel, who has been the most critical player driving the European response to Russia.

"We have said for quite some time that Russia's failure to take some of the steps that would de-escalate the conflict in Ukraine put them at risk of facing greater isolation and greater economic consequences," Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary, told reporters at a briefing hours before the new sanctions were announced.

The latest actions reflect a conclusion by U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia has not cut off the flow of fighters and arms across the border to pro-Russian separatists. Ukrainian officials have said they believe Russia was responsible for the downing of a military transport plane in Luhansk, a rebel stronghold in eastern Ukraine.

The White House summoned EU ambassadors Monday to a briefing at which they were shown fresh intelligence on Russian involvement in the Ukrainian turmoil and were pressed to take stronger action. □



President Barack Obama looks down as he speaks about foreign policy and escalating sanctions against Russia in response to the crisis in Ukraine in the James Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House in Washington, Wednesday, July 16, 2014.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

owned oil company and largest oil producer; Gazprombank, the financial arm of Gazprom, the giant state-controlled natural gas producer; Novatek, another Russian natural gas producer that has been competing with Gazprom; and VEB, the state economic development bank. The administration also targeted eight state-owned defense firms; four Russian government officials, including an aide to

separatist leader; and the rump rebel organizations in the eastern Ukrainian cities of Donetsk and Luhansk.

Russia quickly denounced the moves and vowed to retaliate. "We condemn those politicians and bureaucrats who are behind such actions," Sergei A. Ryabkov, the deputy foreign minister, told the Interfax news agency. Ryabkov said that Moscow would respond with countermeasures that would be "quite

penalties against Russia. The Europeans declined to go as far as the United States, instead focusing on a plan to block loans for new projects in Russia by European investment and development banks.

The disparate approaches reflect the deeper divisions between Washington and Brussels over how tough to be with Russia.

But U.S. officials said the fact that Europe was moving ahead with additional

300 vials labeled influenza, dengue found at US lab

MATTHEW PERRONE

AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The same U.S. government scientist who recently found forgotten samples of smallpox at a federal lab also uncovered over 300 additional vials, many bearing the names of highly contagious viruses and bacteria. Food and Drug Administration officials said Wednesday the undocumented collection contained 327 carefully packaged vials, listing pathogens like dengue, influenza and rickettsia.

Last week the government only disclosed that it had

recovered six glass vials of smallpox dating from the 1950s.

The new revelations raise serious concerns about the government's ability to secure its collections of potentially deadly pathogens. "The reasons why these samples went unnoticed for this long is something we're actively trying to understand," said FDA deputy director for biologics Dr. Peter Marks.

The samples, including those labeled smallpox, were found in 12 boxes in a corner of a cold storage room at the National Institutes of Health in suburban

Washington that has been used by the Food and Drug Administration since 1972. FDA officials estimate the collection was assembled between 1946 and 1964 by government scientists.

"The fact that these materials were not discovered until now is unacceptable," said Karen Midthun, of FDA's director for biologics. "However, upon finding these materials our staff did the right thing — they immediately notified the appropriate authorities who secured the materials and determined there was no exposure."

FDA scientists said they

have not yet confirmed whether the newly disclosed vials actually contained the pathogens listed on their labels.

The agency is conducting a nationwide search of all cold storage units for any other missing samples.

Investigators destroyed 32 vials containing tissue samples and a non-contagious virus related to smallpox. Several unlabeled vials were sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for testing and the remaining 279 samples were shipped to the Department of Homeland Security for safekeeping. □

Liberals assessing 2016 race as Clinton weighs bid

KEN THOMAS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Hillary Rodham Clinton promotes her book, liberals in the Democratic Party are elbowing into the 2016 presidential conversation, pitching a populist message on the U.S. economy and immigration.

Potential Clinton rivals like Vice President Joe Biden, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley are in the middle of a summertime tour of Democratic constituencies and campaigns, drawing contrasts to Clinton as she weighs a heavily anticipated second presidential bid.

Biden and Warren addressed Generation Progress, an organization of young Democratic activists, on Wednesday and are speaking at the annual Neotroops Nation conference later in the week, putting them before liberals who

form a core of the Democratic base. O'Malley has been exploring a presidential campaign for months and made a splash last weekend when he said

the Obama administration should not turn away Central American immigrant children crossing the border without due process. Clinton, who dominates

early 2016 polls, may avoid a significant primary challenge if she runs for president. Biden has kept all options open, Warren has repeatedly denied interest, while O'Malley promotes his record in Maryland as a model in the party. In her speech Warren said that the political system was "rigged" toward powerful lobbyists and made an impassioned case for reducing burdensome student loans. Biden said he had been on the front lines of debate over income inequality, climate change and gay marriage.

Biden has been a leading advocate for President Barack Obama's agenda, backing unsuccessful efforts to raise the minimum wage and curb gun violence. The vice president has maintained ties to the early voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina and projects a blue-collar image

in contrast to the former first lady's recent stumbles over discussions of her family's wealth. During a White House summit on working families last month, Biden said he had been the "poorest man in Congress" and didn't own a single stock or bond — even though financial disclosures show he had a small savings account and owned mutual funds. Biden's remarks came as Clinton faced criticism for saying her family was "dead broke" when they left the White House in January 2001 because of hefty legal bills fending off Republican-led investigations. The Clintons paid off their debt and became multimillionaires within a few years. Warren has become a hero of the party's economic populists, railing against high student loan debt at a time when Clinton has received six-figure speaking fees on college campuses. □



In this July 15, 2014, photo, former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton reacts to host Jon Stewart during a taping of "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," in New York. As Clinton promotes her book, liberals in the Democratic party are elbowing into the 2016 presidential conversation while pitching populist messages on the economy and immigration.

(AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)

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Defense: Boston bombing suspect's friend was naive

DENISE LAVOIE

AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON (AP) — A friend of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was a naive college kid who was prosecuted because he was a "friend of the bomber," a defense lawyer said Wednesday, while prosecutors told a jury the man was an active participant in a plan to protect Tsarnaev by removing altered fireworks and other items from his dorm room.

The jury began deliberating in the case Wednesday afternoon, after closing arguments in the first trial related to the 2013 bombings, which killed three people and injured more than 260.

Azamat Tazhayakov, a 20-year-old Muslim from Kazakhstan, is charged with obstruction of justice and conspiracy.

The Tsarnaevs, also Muslims, lived in Kyrgyzstan and Russia before moving to the United States. Prosecutors allege the Tsarnaevs carried out the attack in retaliation for U.S. actions in Muslim countries.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Capin said Tazhayakov knew Tsarnaev was a bombing suspect after he and other friends saw photos and video of Tsarnaev released by the FBI on April 18, 2013.

Hours later, Capin said, Tazhayakov and two other friends, Dias Kadyrbayev and Robel Phillipos, went to Tsarnaev's dormitory room at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth after Tsarnaev sent Kadyrbayev a text message telling them they could go to his room and "take what's there." □

Attorney: Prostitute had no reason to kill US exec

MARTHA MENDOZA

AP National Writer

SANTA CRUZ, California

(AP) — A woman accused by police of being a high-priced prostitute and abandoning a Google executive after shooting him up with a fatal dose of heroin would never have wanted him to die because he was paying her well, a defense attorney said Wednesday.

"There was no intent to harm or injure Mr. Hayes," said Larry Biggam, whose Santa Cruz firm has been appointed to represent defendant Alix Tichelman. "Why would she? He was a lucrative source of income to her." As her parents watched quietly from the front row of a courtroom packed with media, Tichelman, 26, pleaded not guilty to prostitution, drug use and manslaughter in the death of Forrest Hayes, 51. Her eyes were often closed during the proceedings, but she told Judge Timothy Volkmann "yes sir" when asked if she agreed to waive her right to a preliminary hearing within 10 days. Hayes was

found dead by the captain of his 50-foot (15-meter) yacht Escape last November. But the circumstances of his death were not widely known until last week,

Folsom with a fake story about a client who wanted to hire her at an upscale resort. Police detective Laurel Shonfield said video surveillance from the yacht

when he overdoses," according to court records. Shonfield also said Tichelman has wealthy parents and dual citizenship in the U.S. and Canada, and



Alix Tichelman, left, stands next to her public defender Athena Reis as she is arraigned in Santa Cruz Superior Court on Wednesday, July 16, 2014, in Santa Cruz, Calif. Tichelman faces manslaughter charges in the death last November of Forrest Hayes, a Google executive after she walked away from him when he overdosed on heroin on his yacht.

(AP Photo/Shmuel Thaler)

when Santa Cruz police arrested Tichelman after luring her 160 miles south from

shows Tichelman injecting Hayes with heroin "and doing nothing to render aid

was preparing to move out of California when she was arrested. □

US judge rules against California death penalty

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A federal judge ruled California's death penalty unconstitutional Wednesday, writing that lengthy and unpredictable delays have resulted in an arbitrary and unfair capital punishment system.

The decision by U.S. District Court Judge Cormac J. Carney represents a legal victory for those who want to abolish the death penalty in the country's most populous state and follows a similar ruling that has suspended executions in the state for years.

Ruling in a case brought against the warden of San

Quentin state prison by Ernest Dewayne Jones, who was condemned in 1994, Carney called the death penalty an empty promise. "Inordinate and unpredictable delay has resulted in a death penalty system in which very few of the hundreds of individuals sentenced to death have been, or even will be, executed by the State," Carney wrote.

He continued, writing that "arbitrary factors, rather than legitimate ones like the nature of the crime or the date of the death sentence, determine whether an individual will actually

be executed."

Another federal judge put California's death penalty on hold in 2006 when he ruled its lethal injection procedures needed an overhaul.

The judge found that the state's procedures created too much risk that an inmate would suffer extreme pain while being executed. At that time, lethal injections were carried out in San Quentin's old gas chamber, which the judge found too cramped, too dark and too old for prison staff to properly administer execution drugs.

Since then, the California

Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has built a new execution chamber on the grounds of San Quentin and made a number of changes to its procedures to address the judge's concerns.

A new federal judge has taken over the case and has not ruled on whether those changes are enough to restart executions.

Additionally, the corrections department is drafting a new set of regulations for administering lethal injections. No executions can take place until the new regulations are formally adopted. □

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Beige Book Watch:

Latest Fed survey sees improved American economy

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The economy kept expanding in all regions of the country in June and early July, helped by strength in consumer spending, a Federal Reserve survey released Wednesday indicates.

All 12 of the Fed's regions reported growth with five — New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, Dallas and San Francisco — characterizing growth as "moderate" while the others reported "modest" growth. Boston and Richmond reported that growth came in at a slightly slower pace than the previous reporting period.

The Fed's survey, known as the Beige Book, will be used by central bank officials when they next meet July 29-30 to review interest rate policies.

Analysts expect that the Fed will decide to keep its short-term interest rate at

a record low near zero and authorize another reduction in its bond purchases aimed at keeping long-term interest rates low.

Federal Reserve Chair Ja-

net Yellen, who spent two days delivering the Fed's twice-a-year policy report to Congress, emphasized before both Senate and House committees that de-

spite recent sizable gains in employment, the central bank is in no rush to withdraw the massive support it is providing to the economy.

The Fed has kept its benchmark short-term rate at zero since December 2008 and many analysts believe the first rate increase is still about a year away.

The Beige Book survey was compiled from information gathered by the Fed's 12 regional banks in the period before July 7. The report said that consumer spending had increased in every district with auto sales generally stronger than other retail sales.

Tourism remained strong with hotels in the Boston, New York, Atlanta and Minneapolis districts describing room demand as robust.

The report said that many districts reported low inventories of homes for sales and rising home prices. But Boston, New York and St. Louis said that sales were below year-ago levels.

All 12 districts reported job gains with several districts saying that businesses were reporting difficulties in filling positions for skilled workers. Aside from wage increases to attract certain skilled workers, the districts said that wage pressures remained modest. The Fed beginning in December started reducing its monthly bond purchases which have been aimed at keeping long-term interest rates low. Yellen said this week that Fed officials expect to wrap up those purchases at the October meeting.

The Fed has repeated that the federal funds rate, the key short-term interest rate it controls, will likely remain near zero for a considerable time after the bond purchases end. □



Servers Lindsey Hayden, second from left, and Emma Franz serve lunch to patrons at Coppertop restaurant in Valley City, Ohio. A Federal Reserve survey released Wednesday, July 16, 2014 indicates the economy kept expanding in all regions of the country in June and early July, helped by strength in consumer spending.

(AP Photo/Mark Duncan)

US factory output rises for 5th straight month

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. factory output increased for the fifth straight month in June as manufacturers cranked out more aircraft, chemicals and furniture.

Factory production rose 0.1 percent last month, the Federal Reserve said Wednesday, down from a gain of 0.4 percent in the previous month. May's data was revised slightly lower, but April's reading was revised much higher.

While last month's increase was modest, manufactur-

ers strongly boosted output in the April-June quarter. That has helped the economy return to growth after a sharp contraction in the first three months of the year. Factory output rose at an annual rate of 6.7 percent in the second quarter, the most in more than two years.

Overall industrial production, which includes manufacturing, mining and utilities, edged up 0.2 percent in June, down from 0.5 percent in May.

Mining output, which includes oil and gas drilling,

surged 0.8 percent.

Utility production fell 0.3 percent, mostly reflecting weather patterns. Industrial production rose at an annual rate of 5.5 percent in the second quarter, the best showing in nearly four years.

Americans are buying more cars and businesses are spending more on steel and other metals and computers. Auto sales reached an eight-year high in June. Those gains are driving growth in factory output.

The government's jobs report earlier this month

showed that factories added 16,000 positions in June, the most in four months, and the average work week for manufacturing employees remained at a post-recession high.

A survey earlier this month by the private Institute for Supply Management, meanwhile, found that manufacturing expanded in June for the 13th straight month, though at a slightly slower pace than the previous month. Growth was broad-based across nearly all the 18 sectors that the survey covers. □

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US Financial Front:

Higher gasoline costs raise US producer prices



Evelyn Morales assembles blender blades at the Vitamix manufacturing facility in Strongsville, Ohio. The Labor Department released the Producer Price Index for June on Wednesday, July 16, 2014. (AP Photo/Mark Duncan)

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rising gasoline costs pushed up the prices U.S. companies receive for their goods and services in June, but overall inflation remains tame. The Labor Department said Wednesday that the producer price index, which measures the cost of goods and services before they reach the consumer, rose

0.4 percent last month. The increase follows a 0.2 percent decrease in May. Gas costs rose 6.4 percent in June. Steel prices shot up 3 percent. But prices fell for grains, cheese and rental cars to offset some of those increases.

In the past 12 months, producer prices have risen 1.9 percent, roughly in line with the Federal Reserve's inflation target of 2 percent.

But inflation appears unlikely to accelerate based on producer prices. Crude oil prices have fallen in July, after surging last month on reports of Iraq being destabilized by the Sunni militia known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. "Nothing here is going to worry the Fed, particularly not when crude oil prices have most recently fallen back," said Paul Ashworth,

chief US economist at Capital Economics.

Consumer prices have tended to track the costs for producers. They rose in May in response to food and energy costs increasing earlier in the year for wholesalers. Consumer prices rose 2.1 percent in May compared to the year prior.

Retailer and wholesaler profit margins increased 0.2 percent in June. Excluding the volatile food, energy and profit margin categories, core producer prices were up 0.2 percent last month.

The Fed targets inflation at about 2 percent as a guard against deflation, which can drag down wages and spark a recession. At the same time, the Fed wants to avoid excessive inflation and protect consumers and the purchasing power of the dollar.

Low inflation should provide a foundation for con-

sumers to spend, but it also reflects the weak recovery from the Great Recession that is now entering its sixth year. Businesses are reluctant to raise their prices, if their customers lack the income to afford their goods and services.

Wage growth has been meager and unemployment, now at 6.1 percent, has been slow to recede since the recession. That has limited consumer spending, which accounts for about 70 percent of all economic activity.

Still, low inflation has enabled the Fed to pursue extraordinary measures to boost the economy. This includes holding shorter-term interest rates near zero and purchasing bonds to depress longer-term interest rates. It has begun to unwind some of those measures, cutting its monthly bond-buying program to \$35 billion from \$85 billion last year. □

In May:

Foreign holdings of US Treasury debt rise

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Foreign buyers of U.S. Treasury securities increased their holdings in May to another record high. The Treasury Department reported Wednesday that total foreign holdings rose 0.3 percent to \$5.98 trillion, up from \$5.96 trillion in April. China, the top foreign buyer of U.S. Treasury debt, increased its holdings for the first time since January, raising them by 0.6 percent

to \$1.27 trillion. Japan, the second-biggest foreign buyer, increased its holdings by 0.9 percent to \$1.22 trillion. Russia reduced its Treasury holdings by 4.3 percent to \$111.4 billion and well below the recent high of \$149.9 billion last October. Foreign demand for Treasury debt is expected to stay strong this year, helped by a congressional agreement to avoid a fight over the U.S. debt ceiling until March 2015.

A standoff in August 2011

rattled financial markets and the political gridlock led the credit rating firm Standard & Poor's to downgrade its AAA rating of U.S. debt for the first time in history. The monthly Treasury report showed that holdings by Belgium, the No. 3 investor in U.S. Treasuries, fell 1.1 percent to \$362.4 billion. Holdings by the Caribbean banking centers, including the Bahamas, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands, rose 0.8 percent to \$310.8 billion. □

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US Study: Millennials buying homes later

JOSH BOAK
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Don't blame the millennial generation for lackluster home sales.

They are increasingly ethnically diverse, more educated and less likely to be married — all factors that make them less likely to own a home, said a new

erwise would and masked the impact of the demographic changes, according to Trulia. The bursting of that bubble and the resulting recession that began in 2007 then caused ownership to fall where it should be given the demographic shifts. Because a greater percentage of younger Americans are attend-

Slightly less than 65 percent of the country owns a home, down from a peak of 69 percent in the middle of 2006.

While the weak economic rebound has affected home buying, Trulia's analysis puts more of an emphasis on demographics than much of the real estate industry has to explain



Realtor Greg Gammonley, right, with ConnectRealty.com, shows off a home to prospective buyer Maddie Coker in Orlando, Fla. A new report released Wednesday, July 16, 2014 by Trulia, the online real estate firm, suggests that the recession — for all its damage to the economy — did little to turn off millennials from the idea of owning a home compared to previous generations.

(AP Photo/John Raoux)

report released Wednesday by Trulia, the online real estate firm. After adjusting for these population changes, younger Americans are actually buying homes at the same rate as they did during the late-1990s.

"For at least the past 20 years, there have been significant demographic headwinds for homeownership for young people," said Jed Kolko, chief economist at Trulia.

The analysis suggests that the recession — for all its damage to the economy — did little to turn off millennials from the idea of owning a home compared to previous generations. In fact, the report shows that the major group whose ownership rates suffered because of the downturn is middle-aged Americans. The easy credit offered during the housing bubble caused more young people to buy than they otherwise would and masked

ing college and graduate school, they are settling down a few years later — which causes them to delay buying a home.

Census figures show that the share of 18-34 year-olds who are married is 30 percent, down from 47 percent in 1983. Just 29 percent of them live with children, compared to 39 percent three decades ago. Since more people in the age range are single and childless, Trulia looked at the number of homeowners who are also identified as the head of their households. After adjusting for these population shifts, the share of people under 35-years old who own homes is the same as it was for 1997.

Standard Census data, which aren't adjusted for these factors, show that the ownership rate among those younger than 35 has declined to 36.2 percent from 38.6 percent in 1997.

poor sales.

Lawrence Yun, chief economist at the National Association of Realtors, blames the lack of buying among younger people on the sluggish recovery, now entering its sixth year.

"It's principally the economic factors: jobs and student debt," said Yun, noting the difficulty of saving for a down payment when earning modest wages and repaying college loans.

The number of first-time homebuyers in May was near record lows at 27 percent, versus a historic average of 40 percent, the Realtors said last month. Yun says that as the economy continues to bounce back, so, too, will sales to first-time buyers.

By contrast, Trulia found that homeownership really lags among a different age bracket: the middle-aged. After adjusting for demographic changes,

American homebuilding confidence surges in July

ALEX VEIGA
AP Real Estate Writer

U.S. homebuilders' confidence in the housing market surged this month to the highest level since January, reflecting a pickup in sales of new homes and heightened expectations for sales the second half of the year.

The brighter sales outlook suggests home construction could pick up in coming months after a sluggish start this year.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index released Wednesday rose this month to 53, up four points from a revised reading of 49 in June.

Readings above 50 indicate more builders view sales conditions as good, rather than poor. The latest reading is the first above 50 since January, when it was 56.

Builders' view of current sales conditions for single-family homes, their outlook for sales over the next six months and traffic by prospective buyers each increased since June.

Higher mortgage rates and the bad weather weighed on home sales in late 2013 and early this year. Harsh winter weather also contributed to a sluggish start to this year's spring home-selling season. But sales of new homes have picked up in recent months. New home sales jumped 18.6 percent in May to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 504,000, the highest level in six years. That followed a 3.7 percent increase in April. The gains came after declines in February and March.

Even with the big overall gain, sales of new homes are still running at just about half the pace of a healthy real estate market.

Still, the recent pickup in sales suggests that the housing recovery may be regaining its footing after slowing earlier this year.

Economists say there is significant pent-up demand

for homes as many potential buyers put off purchases over the past few years because of concerns about the economy.

Solid job gains this year also bode well for housing. Employers added 288,000 jobs last month, the fifth straight month of gains above 200,000. The national unemployment rate has slid to 6.1 percent, a 5 1/2-year low.

"An improving job market goes hand-in-hand with a rise in builder confidence," said David Crowe, the NAHB's chief economist. "As employment increases and those with jobs feel more secure about their own economic situation, they are more likely to feel comfortable about buying a home."

That optimism is reflected in the latest NAHB index, which is based on responses from 241 builders. In the latest survey, builders' view of current sales conditions for single-family homes rose four points to 57. A measure of traffic by prospective buyers increased three points to 39. And builders' outlook for sales of single-family homes over the next six months jumped six points to 64, the highest level since September.

Housing, while still a long way from the boom of several years ago, has been recovering over the past two years.

Though new homes represent only a fraction of the housing market, they have an outsized impact on the economy. Each home built creates an average of three jobs for a year and generates about \$90,000 in tax revenue, according to NAHB data.

The builder confidence survey sent shares in U.S. homebuilders higher in morning trading Wednesday. M/I Homes Inc., based in Columbus, Ohio, led the pack. The stock rose 72 cents, or 3.1 percent, to \$23.63. □

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Iraq PM welcomes electing of new parliament Speaker

SINAN SALAHEDDIN

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's embattled prime minister welcomed on Wednesday the election of a parliament speaker — the first step in forming a new government amid an increasing threat from militants who have taken over a large swath of northern and western Iraq.

During his weekly televised speech, Nouri al-Maliki also called on the new legislative body to put aside political rivalries and to work together to pass pending laws and to coordinate with the executive body.

But al-Maliki, who has ruled Iraq since 2006 and is now under intense pressure to step aside, did not indicate whether he would withdraw his nomination.

"I hope that they will work in harmony and to agree on running the parliament... away from all differences and calculations," al-Maliki said. "But this must not affect the work of the parliament which represents the people's will," he added.

On Tuesday, lawmakers broke the deadlock by choosing a Sunni Speaker for parliament as well as two new deputies — a Shiite and a Kurd. But, political rivals have yet to agree on the most contentious post of prime minister or on a new president.

Al-Maliki's coalition, State of Law, emerged a clear winner following national elections in April, securing 92 seats out of 328. But his former Shiite, Kurdish and Sunni allies deny him a third term because of what they see as his monopoly on decision-making, his perceived sectarian policies toward the Sunnis and Kurds, and the military setbacks of the past two weeks.

The militant blitz began last month when the insurgents led by the Islamic State extremist group captured Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul. Advancing rapidly from there, the Sunni militants managed to overrun much of northern and western Iraq, but their offensive eventually slowed upon reaching predominantly Shiite areas.

But those gains were built, in a sense, on the militants' push into two cities early this year in the overwhelmingly Sunni province of Anbar, west of Baghdad. The government eventually reasserted control over Ramadi, but Fallujah remains in insurgent hands.

Since the beginning of the year, the fighting in Iraq has driven more than 1 million people from their homes, the head of the U.N. refugee agency said Wednesday.

Antonio Guterres told reporters in Baghdad that it "is absolutely crucial" for Iraq's political leaders to overcome their divisions "and create a political power that all Iraqis can feel represents them because there is no way the suffering of the Iraqi people can be addressed by humanitarian actors if there is no political solution." □



Syria's President Bashar Assad laughs as he addresses a speech shortly after he was sworn in for his third seven-year term in Damascus, Syria, Wednesday, July 16, 2014. Proclaiming the Syrian people winners in a "dirty war" waged by outsiders, Assad was sworn in on Wednesday for a third seven-year term despite the bloody civil war ignited by a mass uprising against his rule.

(AP Photo/SANA)

Assad declares victory in Syria vote

ZEINA KARAM

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — In a lavish ceremony, a smiling and confident President Bashar Assad was sworn in for a third seven-year term on Wednesday, praising his supporters for "defeating the dirty war" and denouncing insurgents who have "failed in trying to brainwash you or break your will."

As he declared victory, the Western-backed push to topple him or reach a political deal seem increasingly elusive.

And while new conflicts in the region have grabbed attention, Syria's 3-year-old civil war is grinding on without reprieve, with 170,000 dead and a third of the country displaced.

While combat continues along all major front line towns and cities across the country — opposition activists say more than 400 people have been killed in the past three days alone — much of the fighting has

now shifted.

Rebels once focused on Assad's forces are now simultaneously fighting increasingly belligerent jihadists seeking to expand a cross-border fiefdom they carved out with neighboring Iraq.

The stunning takeover by militants of the Islamic State group of large areas of northern and eastern Syria and parts of neighboring Iraq has created a new adversary for the West — one that threatens their national security far more than Assad ever did.

No longer the focus of attention, Assad's forces continue to steadily advance against rebels in key areas, most recently in Aleppo, Syria's largest city and a much coveted prize for both sides of the conflict.

"This is a critical moment for the West to give promised aid to the moderate forces," said Hussam Al-Marie, a spokesman for the Western-backed Free Syrian Army in northern Syria.

"If not enough aid is given, we could see the annihilation of several battalions, who have said they'll fight to the last bullet."

Assad appeared keenly aware Wednesday of the advantage he now holds over the weak and arms-strapped rebels as he took the oath of office Wednesday.

Looking confident and self-assured and striking a victorious tone, he suggested that he was fighting terrorism on behalf of the entire world "which will sooner or later be subjected to similar terrorism."

"Congratulations for your victory and congratulations for Syria and its people who have defied all kinds of terrorism," he said, addressing the Syrian people.

The war in Syria and recent turmoil in Iraq and now Gaza, he said, were all connected. "These are all part of a series (of conspiracies) planned by Israel and the West." □

Typhoon kills 12 in Philippines, spares Manila

**JIM GOMEZ
OLIVER TEVES**

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) —

A typhoon roared through the Philippines, killing at least 12 people, knocking out power in many areas and damaging a parked jetliner, but the country's sprawling capital was largely spared when the storm's fierce winds shifted direction, officials said.

Typhoon Rammasun's winds of 150 kilometers (93 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 185 kph (115 mph) brought down trees and electric posts and ripped off roofs across Manila, the capital of 12 million people, shutting government offices and schools. More than 370,000 people moved from high-risk villages to emergency shelters in six of the nation's provinces.

The storm weakened before blowing out of the country later Wednesday, heading toward northern Vietnam or China's Hainan Island, forecaster Jori Loiz said. He said it could regain strength while crossing the South China Sea.

In a shantytown at the edge of Manila Bay, hundreds of people fled when strong winds tore tin roofs. Most were drenched before they reached an evacuation center with

the help of emergency workers.

Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada said he was relieved there were no reported deaths after the

Officials reported at least 12 deaths elsewhere, mostly people pinned by falling trees and electrical posts. A fire volunteer died when he was hit by a block

against a bridge passageway, said manager Angel Honrado. No one was injured.

Three fishermen were reported missing in Catan-



Residents wade through floods as they go back to their home while Typhoon Rammasun batters suburban Quezon city, north of Manila, Philippines on Wednesday, July 16, 2014. Typhoon Rammasun knocked out power in many areas but it spared the Philippine capital, Manila, and densely-populated northern provinces from being directly battered Wednesday when its fierce wind shifted slightly away, officials said.

(AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

typhoon sideswiped his city, although its winds still downed trees and damaged seaside shanties, prompting more than 1,000 residents to evacuate.

"It was like a drill," he said. "We hauled people away from dangerous seaside areas, whether they liked it or not."

of concrete while hauling down a Philippine flag in suburban Pasig city, said Francis Tolentino, chairman of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

At Manila's international airport, the left wing of a Singapore Airlines Boeing 777 was damaged after strong gusts pushed it

duanes, near Albay province, where Rammasun made landfall late Tuesday.

There were no immediate estimates of the damage in communities that lost power and telephone connections while being pummeled by the wind and rain. □

Terror arrest made after tourist area shooting in Greece

ELENA BECATOROS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) —

Greek police arrested one of the country's most wanted men - a fugitive convicted of terrorism - during a shootout Wednesday in Athens' central tourist district that left four people wounded, authorities said. Police said the wounded included two tourists from Australia and Germany, a police officer and the fugitive, Nikos Maziotis. The 43-year-old has been on the run along with his wife Panagiota Roupa since June 2012 following their release from jail in 2011 after serving the maximum 18 months in pre-trial detention.

Maziotis and Roupa were convicted in absentia last year and sentenced to 25 years for participation in Revolutionary Struggle, a group active between 2003 and 2009 and best known for firing a rocket-propelled grenade into the U.S. Embassy and bombing the Athens Stock Exchange. Neither of those attacks caused injuries.

In January, authorities announced a 1 million-euro (\$1.3 million) reward for information leading to each of the couple's arrest. Roupa is still at large.

Wednesday's shootout began in the crowded Monastiraki area, near the city's main Syntagma Square and historic Plaka district.

Police Chief Dimitris Tsaknakis said Maziotis fired eight times from a handgun while being pursued and was fired upon and hit once in the shoulder by police.

"He tried to obscure his appearance ... and was wearing a wig. The anti-terrorism police requested that officers in the area check his identity," he said. Tsaknakis said Maziotis was using a false identity, and had been implicated in two bank robberies since his disappearance. But he refused to say whether police believed he had an accomplice in Wednesday's shooting. □

China growth reassuring but no game changer

The Associated Press

A pickup in China's growth has fortified confidence the world's second-biggest economy is stabilizing as the past decade's explosive growth decelerates to the 7 percent range.

China's economic transformation since the 1980s has relied heavily on industrial investment and exports but those engines have run out of momentum. Chinese export manufacturers are surrendering some of their low-cost advantage as workers demand higher wages. Industrial growth has been so intense that many industries now have too many factories and suffer diminishing returns on



Women walk past a fashion outlet offering its summer sale at a shopping mall in Beijing, China Wednesday, July 16, 2014.

every dollar of new investment. The cost to the environment and public health has been high.

Now, the government

wants Chinese to save less and spend more to make the country's own consumers a more important driver of growth.

China's economy expanded 7.5 percent in the April-June quarter after growing 7.4 percent in the first quarter. Some 7.4 million new jobs were created in China in the first half of the year, a boost for country's authoritarian rulers who fear politically destabilizing job losses.

The second quarter figure is positive but isn't a game changer for Asia or the global economy. China has overtaken Europe and the U.S. to become the biggest market for numerous Asian nations so they must also adjust to its slower growth rates while dealing with sluggish recoveries in the West. □

Urban warfare feared in Ukraine fight

PETER LEONARD
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Insurgents bade tearful farewells Wednesday as they loaded their families onto Russia-bound buses and began hunkering down for what could be the next phase in Ukraine's conflict: bloody urban warfare.

While the pro-Russian rebels in the east have lost much ground in recent weeks and were driven from their stronghold of Sloviansk, many have regrouped in Donetsk, an industrial city that had a population of 1 million before tens of

thousands by some estimates fled in recent weeks for fear of a government siege. The rebels also hold the city of Luhansk.

Despite the government's desire to minimize civilian casualties, Ukraine's forces could find themselves dragged into grueling warfare inside the cities in their battle to hold the country together.

"To respond to this phase ... we evidently must change tactics," said Valeriy Chaly, deputy head of the presidential administration. He refrained from specifying how. Insurgents in Donetsk

appeared be bracing for a bitter fight as they shipped their relatives out of the city. One fighter, who declined to give his name, told The Associated Press that not having his wife and young daughter with him would free him to concentrate on the battles ahead. "It is easier for us this way. It is easier to fight. Your soul is not ripped into two, because when they're here, you think about war and about your family — if they are OK or not," he said. "When you know that they are safe, it is easier to go to fight." □



A girl says goodbye to her friend, a volunteer, before they were sent to the eastern part of Ukraine to join the ranks of special battalion "Azov", during a ceremony to take the oath of allegiance to Ukraine, in Kiev, Ukraine Wednesday, July 16, 2014.

(AP Photo/Sergei Chuzavkov)

Moscow:

2 subway workers held in deadly crash

N. VASILYEVA
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Investigators detained two Moscow subway workers Wednesday in the wake of a deadly rush-hour derailment that killed 22 people and injured 136 others. More than 1,100 people were evacuated Tuesday after a train derailed between two stations in western Moscow.

Eight people remained in critical condition and 40 others have serious injuries, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said in comments carried by Russian news agencies.

Russia's major investigative agency said in a statement it had detained a senior Moscow track foreman and his assistant. Investigators said a new rail switch at the point where the train left the tracks wasn't properly installed during repairs in May and was attached to the rail only by a single 3-millimeter wire. There is another subway line under construction nearby and the switch was to direct to the trains to a new tunnel once the line is launched.

The two men have been questioned, and the in-

vestigators are preparing to file unspecified charges against them, investigating committee spokesman Vladimir Markin said. The Russian capital's airports and transit systems have been a prime target for terrorists over the past two decades, but multiple officials vigorously dismissed terrorism as a possible cause for Tuesday's derailment.

In recent months, subway workers have complained of declining safety standards in the system and disorganized measures for aiding stricken passengers. □

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JULY 17

12:00 pm Caliente Virtual
1:00 pm Palm B. Dogs
1:15 pm Delaware Pk
2:00 pm Arlington Pk
3:00 pm Caliente Virtual
4:15 pm Sacramento
5:00 pm Del Mar
7:30 pm Prairie Mdws
7:30 pm Derby Lane D
7:45 pm Jacksonville D
9:00 pm Australia
10:00 pm Caliente Virtual
10:45 pm Calidogs Eve

JULY 18

12:00 am Caliente Virtual
1:00 am Palm B. Dogs
1:00 am Saratoga
1:25 am Gulfstream
6:15 pm Sacramento
7:00 pm Del Mar
7:00 pm Palm B. Dogs
7:30 pm Derby Lane D
9:00 pm Australia
10:00 pm Alamitos Qh.
10:45 pm Calidogs Eve
11:30 pm Caliente Virtual

JULY 19

11:00 am Caliente Virtual
1:00 pm Palm B. Dogs
1:00 pm Saratoga
1:25 pm Gulfstream
4:15 pm Sacramento
5:00 pm Del Mar
5:00 pm Calidogs Mat
5:05 pm Maroñas
7:00 pm Mountaineer
7:00 pm Palm B. Dogs
7:30 pm Derby Lane D
9:00 pm Australia
9:30 pm Alamitos Qh.
10:45 pm Calidogs Eve
11:30 pm Caliente Virtual

JULY 20

11:00 am Caliente Virtual
12:45 pm Maroñas
1:00 pm Palm B. Dogs
1:00 pm Saratoga
1:25 pm Gulfstream
4:15 pm Sacramento *
5:00 pm Del Mar
5:00 pm Calidogs Mat
7:00 pm Mountaineer
8:00 pm Alamitos Qh.
9:00 pm Australia
9:00 pm Caliente Virtual
9:30 pm Calidogs Eve

JULY 22

12:00 pm Caliente Virtual
12:25 pm Philadelphia Pk
1:00 pm Palm B. Dogs
2:00 pm Fairmount Pk
4:30 pm Calidogs Mat
5:00 pm Caliente Virtual
5:25 pm Presque Isle D
7:00 pm Mountaineer
7:30 pm Derby Lane D
9:00 pm Australia
9:30 pm Calidogs Eve
10:00 pm Caliente Virtual

JULY 21

12:00 pm Caliente Virtual
1:00 pm Palm B. Dogs
1:00 pm Saratoga
1:15 pm Delaware Pk
1:30 pm Calidogs Mat
5:00 pm Caliente Virtual
5:25 pm Presque Isle D
7:00 pm Mountaineer
7:30 pm Derby Lane D
7:45 pm Jacksonville D
9:00 pm Australia
10:00 pm Caliente Virtual
10:45 pm Calidogs Eve

JULY 24

12:00 pm Caliente Virtual
1:00 pm Palm B. Dogs
1:00 pm Saratoga
2:00 pm Arlington Pk
3:00 pm Caliente Virtual
5:00 pm Del Mar
6:25 pm Presque Isle D
7:30 pm Prairie Mdws
7:30 pm Derby Lane D
7:45 pm Jacksonville D
9:00 pm Australia
10:00 pm Caliente Virtual
10:45 pm Calidogs Eve

JULY 23

12:00 pm Caliente Virtual
1:00 pm Palm B. Dogs
1:00 pm Saratoga
1:15 pm Delaware Pk
3:00 pm Caliente Virtual
5:00 pm Del Mar
7:00 pm Mountaineer
7:30 pm Derby Lane D
7:45 pm Jacksonville D
8:10 pm Balmoral Hss
9:00 pm Australia
9:00 pm Caliente Virtual

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Make room Juan Valdez: Starbucks opens in Colombia

JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —

Make room Juan Valdez, it's time to meet the green-aproned barista.

On Wednesday, Starbucks made its much-anticipated debut in the country synonymous with coffee after decades of roasting Colombia's Arabica beans for billions of java lovers the world over.

The three-floor coffee house in Bogota is the first of 50 that the Seattle-based company plans to open here in the next five years. In a nod to the country's proud coffee-growing

head of international sales for the Colombian chain.

Juan Valdez's social mission promoting Colombian coffee and contributing to producers' welfare is likely to keep customers loyal, said Londono.

Since its founding 11 years ago, the Colombian chain has funneled more than \$20 million to a national fund that supports the country's 560,000 coffee-growing families, some of whom also own shares in the company.

While Starbucks also has burnished its image for corporate responsibility, offering employees in the

Schultz said in an interview in Bogota. A desire to overcome the commodities curse is also what's been driving the federation's focus on adding value up the retail chain, a strategy reflected in more sophisticated local coffee-drinking culture.

While known for exporting the world's finest beans, until recently Colombians' taste in coffee was quite provincial, relegated to a preference for heavily-sweetened, warmed-over black coffee known as tinto, which is sold nearly everywhere.

Starbucks has also helped



A Starbucks employee demonstrates the preparation of a cup of coffee during a media tour of the new shop in Bogota, Colombia, Wednesday, July 16, 2014. The three-floor coffee house in Bogota is the first of 50 that the Seattle-based company plans to open here in the next five years. (AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)

tradition, it's also the only one in the world to serve exclusively locally-sourced coffee. But will Colombians answer Starbucks' siren call and ditch a popular local chain bearing the bushy-whiskered coffee farmer's name?

Colombia's coffee federation, owner of the Juan Valdez chain, is outwardly welcoming the competition. It says the arrival of Starbucks will boost the market for gourmet java even if sales at its nearly 200 stores in Colombia take a hit over the short term. "There's room in the market for us both," said Alejandra Londono,

U.S. generous health care benefits and now online college courses, it's stayed clear of Colombia, Latin America's third largest economy, even as it has opened more than 700 stores in 12 other countries in the region. That may have been because it feared trampling on local sensibilities already hurt by the branding of coffee that leaves growers earning just a few pennies from every \$4 venti latte sold.

"Given the dependence we have on Colombian coffee farmers we wanted to tread very lightly over the years," CEO Howard

Colombian growers, introducing to consumers about 15 years ago a single-origin coffee grown in the Narino mountains.

Schultz, who first traveled to Colombia around 15 years ago to purchase beans, said no expense was spared to make the Colombia launch a success. For the first time in Latin America its coffee is being roasted locally, the store is decorated with mostly Colombian artwork and the company opened a farmer support center in the coffee hub of Manizales to share insights with growers. □



French Chef Pierre Meneau works in the kitchen of his restaurant Crom'Exquis in Paris, France, Wednesday, July 16, 2014. Restaurant-goers in France will start seeing a funny little symbol on their menus this week: a skillet with a house on top, indicating your menu choice is made in-house, as part of a new law meant to battle against the surprising amount of factory-made, pre-packaged food in French restaurants. (AP Photo/Francois Mori)

France battles against bad restaurant cuisine

LOUISE DEWAST

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Restaurant-

goers in France will start seeing a funny little symbol on their menus this week: a skillet with a house on top, indicating your menu choice is made in-house.

It's part of a new law meant to battle against the surprising amount of factory-made, pre-packaged food in French restaurants, and celebrate the country's culinary traditions.

However, many in the industry say the law doesn't go far enough, because it allows dishes made from frozen, pre-peeled or pre-cut products to count as home-made.

France's chief of consumer affairs, Carole Delga, told The Associated Press that the logo would better inform customers about what they're getting, and highlight restaurants' craftsmanship.

"It's about sending a message that France is a country where we eat well, where we have skills, especially cooking skills," she said.

"We wanted to give concrete tools for tourists and for French people, and recognize cooking as an integral part of our French identity."

While UNESCO put French cuisine on its World Heritage List in 2010, two recessions

in recent years have driven more and more French chefs to resort to pre-packaged food to cut costs. And France is a champion of industrial food, with companies specialized in frozen foods or dishes that can be prepared quickly and look homemade.

Alain Dutoournier, cook and spokesman for the Culinary College of France, a non-profit supporting French gastronomy, is among those who think the law makes it too easy for restaurants to claim a dish is home-made.

"It's really not very serious. I thought it would be more rigorous and precise," he said. "Once again they are choosing to serve the interest of the food-processing industry."

Diners at Crom'Exquis, a restaurant in Paris' 8th arrondissement, gave the new law mixed reviews. Anne-Laure Bernard called it "a great tool."

There is an exception for potatoes. Dubbed by French media the "McDonald's exception," it means that no one making French fries out of pre-peeled potatoes can claim to be "home-made."

Parliament approved the law March 17, and it came into effect this week. Restaurants and catering companies have until Jan. 1 to adapt their menus. □



Chris and Heather Zirke honored at the Marriott Surf Club



They also love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, safety, beaches, restaurants, ease of getting

around the Island and being on Aruba and staying at the Marriott is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by

Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Jenny Boekhoudt representing the Marriott Surf Club. □

Loyal Guests honored at Playa Linda Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Marriott Surf Club, as Distinguished visitors.

The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation

to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Chris and Mr. Heather Zirke from Berea, Ohio. Chris and Heather are loyal members of the Marriott Surf Club and they are on the Island with their lovely daughter and son and family members.

PALM BEACH - Recently, Joseph Casisi of New York was honored as Goodwill Ambassador, and Raymond and Belinda Pape of Ohio were honored as Distinguished Visitors due to their 10th & 20th consecutive visits to Aruba. Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba

Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony which was held at the Playa Linda Resort. They enjoy coming back to Aruba for the Beautiful Beaches, Friendly People and Warm Weather. On the picture all honorees together with Yvette from Playa Linda and ATA rep Marouska. □

Burton and Sharon Sorensen Honored at the Divi Phoenix



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Burton and Mrs. Sharon Sorensen of Baltimore, Maryland. Burton and Sharon are loyal members of the Aruba Divi Phoenix and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, the stunning view of their room and Aruba feels like a second home, the people are like a family to them and the Divi Phoenix is their home away from home.

The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Pearl Lake and Ms. Stephany Wong representing the Divi Phoenix. □



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Aruba's culture
becomes a total
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Price : \$64 per person, \$32 children 12 years and under.
Where : Main-Street San Nicolas
When : Thursdays from 6 pm to 10 pm

Information: visit your guest services desk in your hotel for more information and tickets.

The Caribbean Festival is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, Transportation, Primary Sector and Culture. Operated by the Caribbean Foundation.



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Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



American League shortstop Derek Jeter, of the New York Yankees, waves as he is taken out of the game in the top of the fourth inning of the MLB All-Star baseball game, Tuesday, July 15, 2014, in Minneapolis. Associated Press

Jeter, Trout lead AL over NL 5-3 in All-Star game

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — On a summer evening filled with reminders of generational change, the American League maintained nearly two decades of dominance by beating the National League 5-3 in the All-Star game Tuesday for its 13th win in 17 years.

Derek Jeter soaked up the adulation from fans and players during one more night on baseball's national stage, setting the tone for the AL with a pregame speech and delivering two final All-Star hits.

Mike Trout, perhaps the top candidate to succeed the 40-year-old Yankees captain as the face of the game, seemed ready to assume the role with a tiebreaking triple and later a go-ahead double that earned him Most Valuable Player honors.

Continued on page 20

GENERATION NEXT

Woods trying regain mystique at Open

Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland gestures on the 13th green during a practice round ahead of the British Open Golf championship at the Royal Liverpool golf club, Hoylake, England, Wednesday July 16, 2014.

Associated Press
Page 19

With Wi-Fi and LED, British Open has modern feel

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

HOYLAK, England (AP)

— Old Tom Morris would barely recognize the British Open these days.

It's one thing for golf to evolve from gutta percha to polyurethane, from niblicks to hybrids, from hickory to graphite. Now the British Open is all about LED screens, apps and routers. Yes, there are wireless routers affixed to every grandstand at Royal Liverpool. Leave it to the Royal & Ancient to be on the cutting edge of digital technology among major championships.

The British Open is believed to be the first major golf event to offer wireless in every grandstand, allowing spectators with mobile phone and tablets to watch the BBC coverage, track their favorite player through GPS, and get details through up-to-the minute scoring updates.

"The experience for our spectators will, I believe, be the best they have ever received," said Peter Unsworth, chairman of the R&A's championship committee. "Using their own smartphones and tablets, and our groundbreaking Wi-Fi network which is available in every grandstand,



A sign advertising WiFi near the 3rd hole on the course at the Royal Liverpool golf club where the British Open Golf championship will start Thursday July 17, in Hoylake, England, Wednesday July 16, 2014.

they will be able to enjoy live BBC television and radio coverage, live scoring and get news and updates without leaving their seat.

"The information available to our spectators has never been so readily available." And to think this major only three years ago banned cellphones from the golf course. Now they're telling spectators they're missing out if they don't have them.

The R&A last year installed wireless signals as an experiment, with the source of streaming capabilities coming from London. It was so pleased with the result that it now has installed its own fiber optic network at most of the links courses where it holds The Open, starting with Hoylake.

Malcolm Booth, the R&A's communications director, said the signal is strong enough for as many as

20,000 fans to stream video at the same time.

A popular theme at the R&A over the last two decades has been finding a balance between tradition and technology. R&A chief executive Peter Dawson always thought that would involve only equipment. Now he is trying to grasp a world of live streaming and second-screen channels.

"What it will be 10 years from now I can scarcely

imagine," Dawson said.

Traditions die hard at the oldest golf championship in the world, which dates to 1860. Tom Watson, a five-time champion who played his first British Open before Tiger Woods was even born, couldn't help notice some of the changes during a practice round Monday.

"What happened to the yellow scoreboards?" he said.

For starters, the scoreboards changed from yellow to green years ago, but point taken. For the longest time, there was a manual scoreboard behind each green that showed the cumulative score of the players on that hole, and the scores of the group next to play.

Those are gone, replaced by LED screens that now give scores, news updates on the championship, and even a rules quiz during the practice rounds.

"They're in the modern age," Watson said.

Dawson said former championship committee chairman Jim McArthur was a strong advocate for getting up to speed with digital technology, and it then was turned over to Booth and the communications department. □

Associated Press

Silver: No guarantee Sterling out by season start

JON KRAWCZYNSKI

AP Basketball Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP)

— NBA Commissioner Adam Silver says he is hopeful that the proposed \$2 billion sale of the Los Angeles Clippers will be completed before next season begins. But he could not guarantee that will happen because the deal is currently held up in the courts.

Silver spoke Tuesday evening after a meeting of the NBA's Board of Governors. He says he cannot guarantee Donald Sterling will be out as owner of the Clippers because he is fighting the sale.

"It's very difficult to say anything with certainty in a situation like this," Silver said. "I can say with cer-



NBA Commissioner Adam Silver speaks at a news conference during the NBA board of governors meeting Tuesday, July 15, 2014, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

tainty we are doing everything in our power to move

Donald out as an owner in the NBA."

Sterling, who was banned by the NBA for life for making racist remarks, is challenging his wife Shelly's planned sale of the Clippers for \$2 billion to Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer in court. A judge recently delayed the next hearing until July 21, and closing arguments are scheduled for July 28.

When Ballmer originally reached an agreement with Shelly Sterling to buy the team, the planned timeline included an approval vote by the board on Tuesday. But the court case has pushed everything back well past the expiration of Ballmer's offer. The deadline can be extended, and Silver said the league is waiting for

the process to play out.

"We're in essence on hold since that sale is being challenged by her husband as to whether she has the right," Silver said. "If the court finds in her favor, the sale will move forward. If not, we will move forward with our own proceedings." Before Shelly Sterling agreed to sell the team to Ballmer, the NBA was moving forward with a plan to terminate Sterling's ownership of the team. During the trial, Shelly Sterling testified that she discussed with Silver the possibility of his lifetime ban being reduced to help facilitate a sale of the team.

"It's accurate that we had the conversation," Silver said. □

A new generation emerging at golf's oldest major

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

HOYLAK, England (AP) —

Even when he's not the favorite, Tiger Woods is still the show at the British Open.

Woods earned that attention by piling up majors at a faster rate than anyone in history, and the attention is just as great now because his recent past includes back surgery and his immediate future is more uncertain than ever. ESPN plans to show his entire round on-line Thursday.

Not to be overlooked at golf's oldest championship, however, is a new generation of stars.

Rickie Fowler and Harris English will be playing ahead of him. Two groups behind will be Jordan Spieth and Hideki Matsuyama. They are among 25 players who share a bond that speaks to the state of golf. Woods has never won a major during their professional careers.

Yes, they saw his dominance on TV. They just never experienced it.

They were not around for the decade when Woods won majors with regularity, sometimes by a record score, sometimes by a record margin. They missed the days that were so Tiger-centric a player couldn't get through an interview without being asked something about Woods.

"Tiger ruined a lot of guys' lives," Charles Howell III, a longtime friend of Woods who lived through those times, said earlier in the year. "He caused a lot of people some sleepless Sunday nights. But he also motivated an entire generation behind him."

Howell's point was that while the next generation might have been in awe of Woods, being outside the arena allowed them to study him without getting scarred. They learned from the way he worked. They were more prepared than the generation before them.

The talk at this British Open is that it is more open than ever. But then, that's been the case since Woods won his last major six years ago. Since that 2008 U.S. Open, 19 players have won majors, and no one has won more than two. In the 24 majors leading up to his last major, Woods won six, Phil Mickelson won three and no one else won more than one.

"Looking at the different amount of winners in the last five years at the major championships, we're seeing so many players win," Henrik Stenson said Wednesday. It's so competitive. At some point there might have been 20 guys battling out for it. And now it feels like anyone in the field can win if they have a great week. So it's definitely tighter."

Stenson, No. 2 in the world and among the favorites this week, will be playing alongside Woods for the opening two days. "He's just one of the guys I need to beat if I want to do well this week," Stenson said. "But it's a good start if you know you can beat him."

Woods is playing his first major of the year because of March 31 back surgery. Returning to Royal Liverpool was always the target — he won his third claret jug on these links in 2006 when it was brown and fast, not green and slower as it is this year. Woods came back sooner than he expected, missing the cut at Congressional three weeks ago in what had the feeling of a 36-hole rehab assignment. He feels healthy. He feels strong. And he still commands a presence.

That much was clear when Woods played only two holes Wednesday as spectators scrambled for a view. He brings energy and excitement to a golf tournament.

Does he bring intimidation? The Open is his next opportunity to see if he can regain the mystique that a younger generation has yet to experience. Matt Kuchar, who played a practice round with Woods on Sunday, doesn't think it will take much. He's not sure Woods ever lost it.

"The kids today grew up idolizing him," Kuchar said. "He gets back on form again, I don't think that intimidation factor is gone at all. These are the kids that grew up watching him and wanting to be him."

Kuchar said it can be intimidating to play alongside, although Patrick Reed sure wasn't flustered having Woods in the group ahead of him at Doral, and Spieth didn't look rattled when he shot 63 at Torrey Pines (the North Course) with Woods in his group. Is there a difference between watching dominance on TV and seeing it in person?

"You're saying a different intimidation for the guys who are now just coming up and just watched it on TV as opposed to my generation that were actually losing by 10 to it?" Kuchar said with a laugh. "I'm not sure. If I was to go shoot baskets with Michael Jordan right now, I would be pretty intimidated. So it's probably similar. The guys that played against him and got scored 40 on probably have a similar feeling to me in the awe that surrounds a guy like that."



Tiger Woods of the US on the practice chipping green ahead of the British Open Golf championship at the Royal Liverpool golf club, Hoylake, England, Wednesday July 16, 2014.

Associated Press

It all unfolds on Thursday, where the only mystery greater than Woods in the English weather. The final day of practice featured sunshine and rain. Hoylake when it's green is there to be attacked — it's the only course on the Open rotation with four par 5s. The greens are not severe. The fairways are relatively flat, which makes them more fair.

All eyes will be on Woods, and there's nothing unusual about that. The difference is that no one is sure what they will see. □

WNBA Capsules

Pondexter lifts Liberty to 77-75 win over Atlanta

NEW YORK (AP) — Cappie Pondexter banked in a jumper from the foul line with four-tenths of a second left to lift the New York Liberty to a 77-75 win over the Atlanta Dream on Wednesday.

Pondexter took a handoff from Plenette Pierson at the top of the key and banked in the winning shot. Atlanta couldn't get a shot off at the other end. Tina Charles had 18 points and 15 rebounds to lead the Liberty (8-13), who snapped a two-game losing streak.

New York held a 10-point lead heading into the fourth before the Dream scored the first 10 points of the final period to tie it at 65 with 5:54 left.

The teams traded baskets until Jasmine Thomas' 3-pointer tied it at 75 with 1:03 left. Neither team could score until Pondexter's winner. Angel McCoughtry led Atlanta (15-6) with 20 points.

LYNX 93, SHOCK 82
MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Maya Moore scored 32 points to help the Lynx beat the Shock.

Moore, who has at least 30 points nine times this season — including each of the three meetings against Tulsa, leads the league in scoring.

Lindsay Whalen added 18 points for the Lynx (17-6), who improved to 17-1 against the Shock since 2010.

Glory Johnson had 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Shock (7-15), who have dropped five straight games. Skylar Diggins led Tulsa with 19 points.

The Lynx set a regular season franchise attendance record with the 16,413 fans, who came as part of the team's annual camp day promotion. □

Signed Lou Gehrig glove sells for \$287,500

GREENWICH, Connecticut (AP) — An autographed baseball glove that Lou Gehrig gave to a Connecticut man when he was a boy has sold for \$287,500. Officials with Hunt Auctions said the glove sold Tuesday at auction in Minneapolis. They didn't disclose the name of the buyer.

Howard Henderson, a 92-year-old Greenwich resident, says the New York Yankees slugger gave him the glove in the mid-1930s. It's signed: "To Howard. I hope you have much luck with this glove as I did. Lou Gehrig."

Gehrig and his wife were friends with Henderson's father, Ray, a songwriter. Gehrig visited the family's Bronxville, New York, home.



In this photo taken on Monday, June 30, 2014, Howard Henderson, who as a boy in New York played catch with baseball legend Lou Gehrig, holds a signed baseman's mitt given to him by Gehrig when he was young, at Henderson's Greenwich, Conn., home.

Associated Press

Selig says Rose could play All-Star role in 2015

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Pete Rose may have a role to play in next year's Major League Baseball All-Star game in Cincinnati despite his lifetime ban from the sport.

The career hits leader generally is not allowed in any areas of major league ballparks not open to fans. The former Cincinnati Reds star was on the field in Cincinnati last September for the unveiling of a bronze sculpture honoring Hall of Fame teammate Joe Morgan.

The Reds host the 2015 All-Star game on July 14, and MLB Commissioner Bud Selig on Tuesday left open the possibility Rose could play a part in the ceremonies.

Rose agreed to the life-



In this June 16, 2014, file photo, Pete Rose sits in the dugout at The Ballpark at Harbor Yard in Bridgeport, Conn.

Associated Press

time ban in 1989 following an investigation by Major League Baseball that con-

cluded he bet on the Reds to win while managing the team.

All - Star game Continued from page 17

"I think let Mike be Mike. I don't think people have to necessarily appoint someone to a particular position," Jeter said. "He's got a bright future ahead of him. I don't know how much better he can get, but if he consistently does what he's doing, then he will be here for a long time."

Miguel Cabrera hit a two-run homer to help give the AL champion home-field advantage for the World Series.

No matter what else happened, from the start it seemed destined to be another special event for Jeter.

He made a diving stop on Andrew McCutchen's grounder to shortstop leading off the game and received a 63-second standing ovation when he walked to the plate before his opposite-field double to right leading off the bottom half. He was given another rousing cheer before his single to right starting the third and 2 1-2 minutes more applause after AL manager John Farrell sent Alexei Ramirez to shortstop to replace him at the start of the fourth.

As Frank Sinatra's recording of "New York, New York" boomed over the Target Field speakers and his parents watched from the stands, Jeter repeatedly waved to the crowd, exchanged handshakes and hugs with just about every person in the AL dugout and then came back onto the field for a curtain call.

"It was a special moment and it was unscripted," Jeter said. "I was unaware of it."

NL manager Mike Matheny of the Cardinals didn't want it to stop.

"The guys on our side have the utmost respect for him and would like to have been standing out there for a little while longer," he said. "I think Derek was the one that was uncomfortable with it."

While not as flashy as Mariano Rivera's All-Star farewell at Citi Field last year, when all the other players left the great reliever alone on the field for an eighth-inning solo bow, Jeter tried not to make a fuss and to deflect the attention.

Even during his clubhouse speech.

"He just wanted to thank us," Trout said. "You know, we should be thanking



American League outfielder Mike Trout, of the Los Angeles Angels, holds the MVP trophy after his team's 5-3 victory over the National League in the MLB All-Star baseball game, Tuesday, July 15, 2014, in Minneapolis

Associated Press

him."

A 14-time All-Star who was MVP of the 2000 game in Atlanta, Jeter announced in February this will be his final season. His hits left him with a .481 All-Star average (13 for 27), just behind Charlie Gehringer's .500 record (10 for 20) for players with 20 or more at-bats.

While the Yankees are .500 at the break and in danger of missing the postseason in consecutive years for the first time in two decades, Jeter and the Angels' Trout gave a boost to whichever AL team reaches the World Series.

The AL improved to 9-3 since the All-Star game

started deciding which league gets Series home-field advantage; 23 of the last 28 titles were won by teams scheduled to host four of a possible seven games.

Detroit's Max Scherzer, in line to be the most-prized free agent pitcher after the season, pitched a scoreless fifth for the win, and Glen Perkins got the save in his home ballpark.

Target Field, a \$545 million, limestone-encased jewel that opened in 2010, produced an All-Star cycle just eight batters in, with hitters showing off flashy neon-bright spikes and fielders wearing All-Star caps with special designs

for the first time.

With the late sunset — the sky didn't darken until the fifth inning, well after 9 o'clock — there was bright sunshine when Jeter was cheered before his first at-bat.

He was introduced by a recording of late Yankees public address announcer Bob Sheppard's deep monotone. St. Louis pitcher Adam Wainwright left his glove on the mound and backed up toward second, clapping along with the crowd of 41,048.

"I tried to tell him to pick it up — let's go," Jeter said. "But he took a moment and let the fans give me an ovation which I will always remember."

When Jeter finally stepped into the batter's box, he took a ball and lined a 90 mph cutter down the right-field line for a double.

"I was going to give him a couple pipe shots just to — he deserved it," Wainwright said. "I thought he was going to hit something hard to the right side for a single or an out. I probably should have pitched him a little bit better."

After those in-game remarks created a stir on the Internet, Wainwright amended himself: "It was mis-said. □"

U.S. Concussion expert: World Cup sets bad example

JIMMY GOLEN
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — World Cup organizers repeatedly failed to follow their own concussion protocol and then failed to take advantage of the international interest in the tournament to teach football fans and young players about the dangers of head injuries, U.S. concussion expert Chris Nowinski said Tuesday.

"I'm worried about how many kids emulate these athletes. It wasn't just one athlete hurt; it was one multiplied by 1 million," Nowinski said. "They didn't even use a bully pulpit and say: 'This is unacceptable.'"

Several times in the monthlong tournament, players sustained obvious concussions but continued to play — a practice doctors agree can put them at risk of severe brain damage.

In the final, Germany midfielder Christoph Kramer stayed in

the game after colliding with Argentina defender Ezequiel Garay. Kramer later had to be helped off the field and said he couldn't remember much from the collision — signature symptoms of a concussion.

"Clearly if there is a protocol, it isn't being followed," Nowinski said.

A college football player turned professional wrestler who retired because of concussions in the ring, Nowinski helped start the Sports Legacy Institute to educate the public about head injuries. The group held a conference Tuesday to roll out its "hit count" initiative to help track and reduce concussions in young athletes.

Although Nowinski is more concerned about amateur players — who might not be able to make decisions about their health, and who aren't compensated for the damage they



Germany's Christoph Kramer lies on the pitch after getting hit in the face by Argentina's Ezequiel Garay's shoulder during the World Cup final soccer match between Germany and Argentina at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday, July 13, 2014.

Associated Press

may be sustaining — the World Cup injuries to Kramer and others who became disoriented or even unconscious showed that even the pros need to be protected.

"It was a great teaching point: Im-

mediately after the injury, you can't leave it up to the athlete," Nowinski said.

"Some of these concussions, they clearly weren't able to make decisions for themselves."

Japan high school baseball looks to save pitchers

JIM ARMSTRONG
AP Sports Writer

TOKYO (AP) — The marathon pitching exploits of Japan's high school baseball players may soon be a thing of the past.

Japan's High School Baseball Federation is considering introducing measures such as a tiebreaker and pitch counts limits in order to protect the health of the country's future stars.

New York Yankees right-hander Masahiro Tanaka, who was recently placed on the 15-day disabled list with a partially torn ulnar collateral ligament in his right elbow, was a standout in Japanese high school baseball. He led his high school team to a championship in 2005.

New York Mets pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka, who had elbow surgery in 2011, gained notoriety for throwing 250 pitches in 17 innings at the summer high school tournament in 1988 after a 148-pitch complete-game shutout the previous day.

Tomohiro Anraku, who many consider the future of Japanese baseball, took the mound on Wednesday and pitched a complete-game shutout an 8-0 win in a qualifying tournament for the summer tournament.

The 17-year-old Anraku, who experienced pain in his right elbow last year, is no stranger to the type of marathon pitching performances that are legendary in Japanese high school baseball.

In 2013, Anraku threw 183 pitches in one game at the Koshien high school baseball tournament after a 137-pitch outing the previous day.

"High School coaches in Japan will argue if the core mechanics are good then a pitcher won't hurt his arm throwing every day," said author Robert Whiting, who has written several books on Japanese baseball.

Whiting points out that Tanaka's former pitching coach with the Rakuten



Saibi High School's Tomohiro Anraku delivers a pitch against Mishima High School in their baseball qualifying game in Saijo, southwestern Japan, Wednesday, July 16, 2014.

Associated Press

Eagles thinks the American obsession with pitch counts is a bad thing. Starting pitchers in Major League Baseball generally are limited to no more than 100 pitches per outing.

One idea the high school baseball officials are pondering is a system similar to that used at the baseball tournament at the Beijing Olympics in which teams started with runners on first base and second base from the 11th inning on.

The high school federation sent out a questionnaire to its 4,000 member schools in mid-July seeking feedback on the proposals.

Many in Japan consider 250-pitch outings to be character building. Despite his injuries, Matsuzaka has said he feels more comfortable the more he throws.

Even in professional baseball in Japan, pitchers throw on the sidelines in between innings to stay warm.



France's Tony Gallopin manages to stay ahead of the spring pack, rear, as he crosses the finish line to win the eleventh stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 187.5 kilometers (116.5 miles) with start in Besancon and finish in Oyonnax, France, Wednesday, July 16, 2014.

Associated Press

Gallopin wins Tour de France Stage 11

JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

OYONNAX, France (AP)

— French rider Tony Gallopin led a late breakaway in a show of opportunism and savvy racing to win Wednesday's 11th stage of the Tour de France as Italy's Vincenzo Nibali retained the overall lead. The peloton returned to action after the race's first rest day with the 187.5-kilometer (116.3-mile) ride from Besancon to Oyonnax, not far from the Swiss border. The stage featured four small- to medium-sized hills near the end.

In the stage's mini-drama, American Andrew Talansky, struggling through pain from crashes earlier in the race, dropped out of the pack and rode solo much of the day. In a show of grit, he finished some 32 minutes back — enough to qualify to ride another day under race rules.

Gallopin, who wore the yellow jersey for a day before Nibali recaptured it, first tried to break away with about 13 1/2 kilometers (8.4 miles) left but got reeled in. Then, in a late flurry, with

less than 3 kilometers to go, the Lotto-Belisol rider tried again. This time, it worked. He chiseled out a lead of several seconds and, desperately pedaling, held off a surging pack in the final several hundred meters. Gallopin won by several bike lengths, just enough for him to have time to lift his arms in celebration, panting.

"Incredible," said Gallopin of his first Tour stage win. "I came to train for the Tour de France here ... that really served me today. "It's really a victory that feels good."

The top standings didn't change, because Nibali finished in the pack with the same time as Gallopin. Astana team leader Nibali has a lead of 2 minutes, 23 seconds over Australia's Richie Porte, in second. Alejandro Valverde of Spain was third, another 24 seconds back. Gallopin was in fifth, 3:12 behind Nibali.

With such a margin and the strong form he has shown so far, Nibali is looking well-positioned for possible victory when the race ends in

Paris on July 27. But tough days lie ahead: in the Alps later this week, and the Pyrenees mountains in Week Three.

Talansky, in pain after two crashes twice in recent days, dropped back from the peloton more than halfway through the stage. At one point, he stopped and sat down on a roadside guard rail. French TV first counted him out, as did some observers on Twitter. But in a show of heart, and with encouragement from his team sports director Robert Hunter, Talansky got back on his bike, wiped his eyes and continued. Now he was racing against the clock. Under race rules, which require riders to finish within a certain time of the stage winner, he had to finish within 37 minutes of Gallopin.

Talansky did that with about five minutes to spare, said Jean-Francois Pescheux, a top race official.

The Garmin-Sharp team leader, who won the Criterium du Dauphine stage race last month, was seen as a potential podium contender before this Tour.



Manny Pacquiao, left, throws punches during his April win over Timothy Bradley.

Associated Press

Pacquiao returns to ring Nov. 22

TIM DAHLBERG
AP Boxing Writer

Manny Pacquiao will return to China for his next fight, taking on Chris Algieri in the gambling enclave of Macau.

The scheduled Nov. 22 fight for a piece of the welterweight title held by Pacquiao comes a year after the Filipino headlined the first big fight card there with a win over Brandon Rios. Promoter Bob Arum said Pacquiao will likely fight at least once a year in Macau the rest of his career.

"It's almost like fighting at home so it's a major advantage for Manny," Arum said. "Plus if he fights in Macau he's not subject to U.S. income taxes, which are 39.5 percent."

Arum said the fight won't sell as well on pay-per-view in the U.S. as it would if it was in Las Vegas, but that will be offset by lower taxes on Pacquiao's purse and a bigger site fee from the Venetian hotel-casino. He said plans are also in place to sell the fight on TV in China, where Pacquiao is becoming better known.

"We hope to make up for any shortfall with the pay-per-view in China," Arum said. "The market is huge and we're going to sell it for like four dollars."

Pacquiao returns to Macau on a two-fight winning streak that began last September with his win over Rios. Before that, he had lost a disputed decision to

Timothy Bradley and was knocked out by Juan Manuel Marquez.

Algieri, a former kick boxer from New York, is unbeaten in 20 fights with eight knockouts, and won a split decision last month over Ruslan Provodnikov in a light welterweight title fight that got him the shot against Pacquiao. He is little known even in boxing circles, but Arum said he brings a lot to the promotion.

"He has a lot of things going for him. He's a college graduate, good looking kid, a good boxer," Arum said. "There's a lot of stuff that makes him very saleable."

Pacquiao's options for opponents have been limited in recent years. Floyd Mayweather Jr. refuses to fight him, and until Oscar De La Hoya regained control of Golden Boy Promotions, his company was not allowing any of its fighters — including England's Amir Khan, among others — to fight any of Arum's Top Rank boxers.

The lack of compelling matchups has hurt pay-per-view numbers, too, with both Pacquiao and Mayweather not faring as well as expected in selling their last fights.

Arum said he believes Algieri will be accepted as a credible opponent despite his relative lack of knockout power, and that fans in Macau will embrace Pacquiao again.

Bill ensures emails, photos won't die with person

ANNE FLAHERTY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A group of influential U.S. lawyers says it has an answer to the question of what should happen to Facebook, Yahoo, Gmail and other online accounts when a person dies.

The Uniform Law Commission, whose members are appointed by state governments to help standardize state laws, on Wednesday endorsed a plan that would give loved ones access to — but not control of — the deceased's digital accounts, unless specified otherwise in a will.

To become law in a state, the legislation would have to be adopted by the legislature.

If it did, a person's online life could become as much a part of estate planning as deciding what to do with physical possessions.

"This is something most people don't think of until they are faced with it. They have no idea what is about to be lost," said Karen Williams,

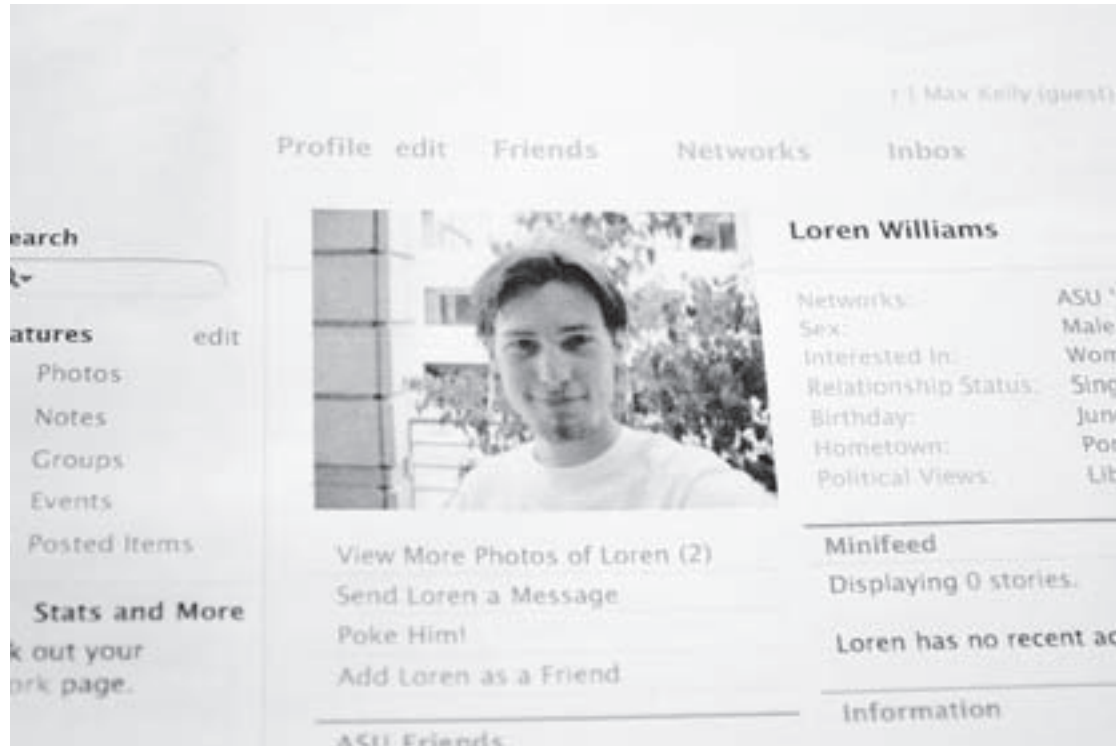
who sued Facebook for access to her 22-year-old son Loren's account after he died in a 2005 motorcycle accident.

The question of what to do with one's "digital assets" is as big as America's electronic footprint.

A person's online musings, photos and videos can be worth considerable value to an estate. Imagine the trove of digital files for someone of historical or popular note and what those files might get at auction.

"Our email accounts are our filing cabinets these days," said Suzanne Brown Walsh, a Cummings & Lockwood attorney who chaired the drafting committee on the proposed legislation. But "if you need access to an email account, in most states you wouldn't get it."

But privacy activists are skeptical of the proposal. Ginger McCall, associate director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center in Washington, said a



This Feb. 16, 2013 file photo shows a printout of the Facebook page for Loren Williams, now deceased, at his mother's home in Beaverton, Ore.

Associated Press

judge's approval should be needed for access, to protect the privacy of both the owners of accounts and the people who communicate with them.

"The digital world is a different world" from offline, McCall said. "No one would keep 10 years of every communication they ever had with dozens or even hundreds of other people under their bed."

Many people assume they can decide what happens by sharing certain passwords with a trusted family member, or even making those passwords part of their will. But anti-hacking laws and most companies' "terms of service" agreements prohibit anyone from accessing an account that isn't theirs. That means loved ones technically are prohibited from logging onto a dead person's account.

Several tech providers have come up with their own solutions. Facebook, for example, will "memorialize" accounts by allowing already confirmed friends to continue to view photos and old posts.

Google, which runs Gmail, YouTube and Picasa Web Albums, offers its own version:

If people don't log on after a while, their accounts can be deleted or shared with a

designated person. Yahoo users agree when signing up that their accounts expire when they do.

According to the Uniform

Law Commission proposal, the personal representative of the deceased, such as the executor of a will, would get access to —

but not control of — a person's digital files so long as the deceased didn't prohibit it in the will. The law would trump access rules outlined by a company's terms of service agreement, although the representative would still have to abide by other rules including copyright laws.

That means, for example, a widow could read her deceased husband's emails but couldn't send emails from that account. Williams said she supports letting people decide in their wills whether accounts should be kept from family members.

"I could understand where some people don't want to share everything," she said in a phone interview this week. "But to us, losing him (our son) unexpectedly, anything he touched became so valuable to us." □

UN: Nations hide rise in private digital snooping

JOHN HEILPRIN

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Governments on every continent are hiding an increasing reliance on private companies to snoop on citizens' digital lives, the U.N. human rights office said Wednesday.

Stepping into a fierce debate over digital privacy rights, the U.N. office says it has strong evidence of a growing complicity among private companies in government spying. It says governments around the world are using both legal and covert methods to access private content and meta-data.

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said the lack of transparency and tactics extends to governments' "de facto coercion" of companies to gain broad access to information and

data on citizens without them knowing. Among the evidence the U.N. cited is its questionnaire to member nations, European court rulings and a European Digital Rights report on the "slide" from corporate self-regulation to self-censorship.

The report to the U.N. General Assembly says concerns about the erosion in privacy have increased since last year's revelations of U.S. and British mass surveillance. It said stricter laws are needed to prevent violations and ensure accountability when digital technology and surveillance is misused.

Mass surveillance is becoming "a dangerous habit rather than an exceptional measure," it said.

By law, Pillay said, governments must demonstrate the interference isn't arbitrary or illegal.

"Any capture of communications data is potentially an interference with privacy," she said.

The report comes as American technology companies' reputations suffer from the perception they can't protect customer data from U.S. spy agencies. The German government said last month it is ending a contract with Verizon over security concerns. But U.S. officials say European and other foreign intelligence agencies also routinely demand cooperation from national telecommunications companies.

"All countries should immediately start to review their digital surveillance practices and bring them in line with international rights standards," Human Rights Watch researcher Cynthia Wong said. □

Rejected Fox bid for Time Warner shows growth mood

**RYAN NAKASHIMA
MAE ANDERSON
AP Business Writers**

NEW YORK (AP) — In a move that aims to counter consolidation among TV distributors, Rupert Murdoch's Fox has made an unsolicited takeover offer for rival media giant Time Warner for about \$76 billion in cash and stock. Time Warner rejected the bid, which amounted to about \$86.30 per share, but an analyst called it just a first attempt in a courtship that would make the combined company as large as Disney in market value.

The rejected cash-and-stock offer comes on the heels of cable giant Comcast Corp.'s proposed \$45 billion takeover of Time Warner Cable Inc., which was made in February. It also comes after AT&T Inc. announced in May it agreed to buy DirecTV for \$48.5 billion.

Both deals, if approved by regulators, would help shift the balance of power in content negotiations to distributors because of

their larger subscriber bases, which could help contain rising programming costs for things like sports channels. After certain divestitures, Comcast could end up serving 30 million video customers, while AT&T would serve about 26 million.

A big merger among content owners would tilt the balance back toward the media companies.

"You can get more money negotiating together than you would separately," Janney analyst Tony Wible said. "It's a chain reaction. There will be more consolidation on the content side in response to consolidation from cable and satellite companies."

Time Warner Inc., which owns the Warner Bros. movie studio and TV channels such as TNT, TBS and HBO, said Wednesday that it had no interest in further discussions and that it could create more value on its own.

Twenty-First Century Fox Inc., which owns the 20th Century Fox movie studio, Fox broadcast network,

and TV channels Fox News and FX, said it made the bid last month, but said no

Jeff Bewkes said the company's own business plan was "superior to any pro-

non-voting stock, something that wouldn't give its shareholders a voice in the



News Corporation CEO Rupert Murdoch speaks during a forum on The Economics and Politics of Immigration in Boston. Murdoch's Twenty-First Century Fox on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 said Time Warner has rejected an offer it made last month to combine the two media and entertainment giants. (AP Photo/Josh Reynolds)

discussions were currently ongoing.

In a video posted on its website, Time Warner CEO

positional that Fox is in a position to offer." The company also expressed concerns that Fox offered only

merged company.

Still, Time Warner's stock jumped 17 percent to \$83.25 on the news Wednesday, and several analysts said that in an environment with cheap access to credit, Murdoch could easily push the bid above \$100 per share and still make the deal work.

"It's the opening salvo," Wible said. "It underappreciates the value of Time Warner."

FBR Capital Markets analyst Barton Crockett said that Time Warner had become an easier, smaller takeover target after first spinning off Time Warner Cable Inc. as a separate company in 2009 and doing the same with publishing division Time Inc. last month to focus on its faster-growing TV and movie business.

Time Warner is more vulnerable to a takeover because it has a single class of shares, so major shareholders might find it attractive even if the board doesn't. By contrast, Fox has a dual-class structure, allowing the Murdoch family to maintain control with its nearly 40 percent of voting shares. □

US stocks close higher on solid earnings

**ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer**

Major stock indexes rebounded Wednesday, finishing higher for the third time in four days and lifting the Dow Jones industrial average to its second record close this month. Investors had lots of market-moving news to consider, including encouraging corporate earnings from Intel, a higher profit forecast from hospital operator HCA Holdings and a pickup in U.S. homebuilders' confidence.

Trading appeared to get the biggest jolt from the latest batch of corporate deal news.

Investors drove Time Warner's stock up 17 percent on news that Twenty-First Century Fox made a takeover bid for the media giant. Other deals involving Apple and IBM as well as slot machine maker Inter-

national Game Technology also helped lift the market.

"It's a continuation of what we've really been seeing this year, and it's



Specialist Jason Hardzewicz, left, works with traders Thomas Ferrigno, center, and Timothy Nick on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, July 16, 2014. U.S. stocks gained Wednesday on second-quarter earnings reports and deal news. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

almost a record amount of (mergers and acquisitions) going on," said David Chalupnik, head of equities at Nuveen Asset

Management.

Momentum from Intel's strong second-quarter earnings late Tuesday and news that Apple and IBM are teaming up to sell

The disclosure by Rupert Murdoch's Twenty-First Century Fox that it had made a bid for Time Warner last month added to the modest rally. Investors also got a dose of good news about housing. A key index of U.S. homebuilders' confidence in the housing market surged to its highest level since January and indicated that builders are more optimistic about selling homes in the second half of the year.

The major stock indexes opened slightly higher, led by the tech-heavy Nasdaq, and remained in positive territory the rest of the day.

All told, the Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 8.29 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,981.57. The index remains near its most recent all-time high of 1,985.44 set July 3. □

Bank of America on hiring spree for junior bankers

SYDNEY EMBER

© 2014 New York Times

Bank of America has been on a hiring spree.

As part of its effort to improve working conditions for its youngest employees in its global corporate and investment banking unit, the company has hired more junior bankers, the latest sign of a shifting corporate culture on Wall Street. The incoming class of full-time analysts and associates, who start work later this month, will be almost 40 percent larger than last year's class. This year's summer analyst and associate class was also about 40

percent bigger than it was in 2013.

A spokesman for Bank of America said the company had previously hired a few hundred analysts and associates into its summer and full-time programs.

"Our increased hiring reflects our desire to invest in our people in light of our growing activity levels and the need to provide more support to our junior bankers to have a better experience," Christian Meissner, the head of global corporate and investment banking, said in an internal memo sent last week. The memo provided a re-

view of the first half of the year, including updates on mergers and acquisitions and initial public offerings, according to the spokesman.

The changes to the junior banking program were first reported by The Financial Times. A spokesman for Bank of America confirmed the memo's contents.

Over the last year, investment banks across Wall Street have tried to ease the grueling schedules of junior bankers, who have long been accustomed to working through the weekends and into the wee hours of the morning. Many

of these institutions, including Bank of America, Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase, have told young employees to take a few days off a month, on the weekend.

The sea change is driven in part by fears across the industry that an increasing number of ambitious college graduates are losing interest in finance. Instead, they are landing prestigious jobs in Silicon Valley, at companies like Google and Facebook. Others are heading to technology startups, which offer more flexible work schedules and the lure of future wealth.

Widespread concern about junior bankers' grueling work schedules also arose last summer when a 21-year-old intern at Bank of America died in London. The cause of death was determined to be epilepsy, but unconfirmed reports on online forums said that he had worked through three consecutive nights as part of his internship.

In January, Bank of America said in an internal memo that its analysts and associates - the two lowest-ranking employee levels - should try to take four weekend days off a month. □

Naver reports Line messenger app mulls IPO

YOUKYUNG LEE

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— Line Corp., the operator of a popular mobile messaging app, has submitted an IPO application to the Tokyo Stock Exchange but might also seek a New York listing, its parent company Naver Corp. said Wednesday. Naver, South Korea's largest Internet company, said the plan for an initial public offering in Tokyo is not final. Line, which is also the name of the app, could list in either New York or Tokyo, or both. The move highlights the growth of Asian mobile messaging apps, driven in large part by the popularity of smartphones and connecting to the Internet through mobile de-

vices. The apps have been a threat to longer-established Internet companies, which have responded by taking a stake in the upstart industry through acquisitions.

As of last month, Line had more than 450 million users. It has tens of millions of users in Japan, Thailand, Indonesia and Spain.

If listed, Line's market capitalization will be at least 23 trillion won (\$22.2 billion), according to Lee Changyoung, an analyst at Tongyang Securities Co.

That would be the same level as the market cap of Twitter Inc. Lee said the number of monthly average users at Line is growing faster than that of Facebook or Twitter. Other mobile messaging apps have



A smart phone is shown with messaging app Line in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, July 16, 2014. Naver Corp. said its subsidiary Line Corp. that operates a popular mobile messaging app is considering listing its shares in Tokyo or New York. Naver, South Korea's largest Internet company, said Wednesday that Line could sell shares in an initial public offering in both Japan and the U.S.

(AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

also been involved in big deals. Facebook Inc. paid \$19 billion to acquire WhatsApp and Viber Media was bought by Japan's Rakuten Inc. for \$900 million. □

Italian lottery operator Gtech buying IGT for \$4.7B

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The Italian lottery operator Gtech is buying slot machine maker International Game Technology for \$4.7 billion in cash and stock.

Including \$1.7 billion in debt, the companies on Wednesday valued the deal at \$6.4 billion.

Gtech said last month that it was in talks with the Las Vegas company and IGT said at the time that it was weighing its options.

IGT stockholders will receive \$13.69 in cash plus

0.1819 ordinary shares of the new company for each share they own. This gives IGT shareholders \$18.25 per share, which is an approximately 18 percent premium to the company's Tuesday closing price of \$15.50. Gtech stockholders will get one share of the new company for each of their existing shares.

IGT and Gtech, which is based in Rome, will form a new holding company called Gtech with corporate headquarters in the

U.K. It will have operating headquarters in Las Vegas, Providence and Rome.

Shares of IGT spiked 9 percent to \$16.90 before the opening bell in New York.

Gtech will use cash on hand and new financing to fund the cash portion of the deal.

Existing Gtech shareholders are expected to own about 80 percent of the new company's stock, with IGT stockholders anticipated to own the remaining 20 percent stake.

The new company's board is expected to have 13 members, including Gtech CEO Marco Sala, who will become CEO of the new company. IGT will name five of its existing directors to the board. That will include IGT CEO Patti Hart and IGT Chairman Phil Satre.

Hart will become vice chairman of the new company and Satre will be the chairman.

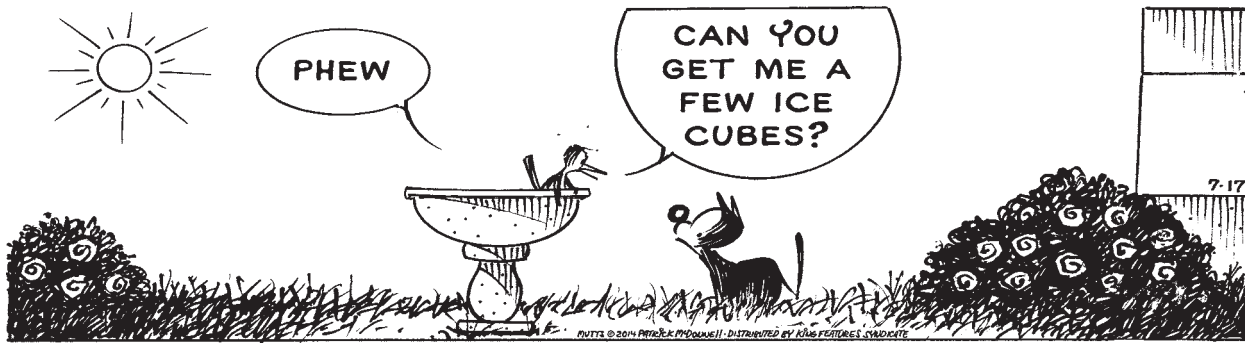
Gtech will name seven directors to the new compa-

ny's board. At least four of them will be independent and one will serve as a vice chairman.

The new Gtech will apply to list on the New York Stock Exchange and IGT shares will cease to be traded there. Gtech's shares will no longer trade on the Borsa Italiana.

The deal is expected to close in the first half of next year if it's approved by shareholders of both companies, as well as regulators. □

Mutts



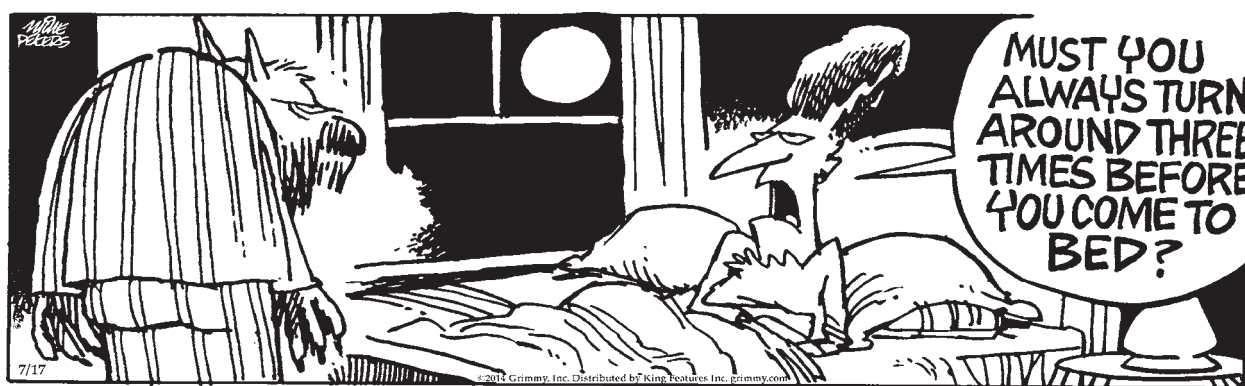
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			2	3			
	1					9	
		6	5	4	2		
6		2			5		7
				5			
9		4			6		2
		9	4	6	1		
	8					3	
			1	7			

Difficulty Level ★★★

7/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

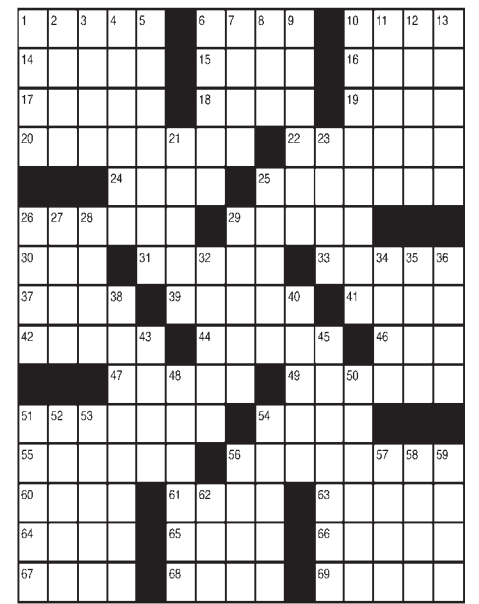
4	8	3	1	2	9	5	6	7
6	7	9	4	5	3	2	1	8
1	5	2	7	6	8	3	4	9
7	9	1	6	4	5	8	2	3
2	4	5	3	8	1	9	7	6
8	3	6	2	9	7	4	5	1
9	6	7	5	3	2	1	8	4
3	2	4	8	1	6	7	9	5
5	1	8	9	7	4	6	3	2

ACROSS

- Remove the lid from
- Weight division on a lab scale
- on; incite
- Bullwinkle, for one
- Writer Clare Boothe
- Give a ticket to
- on; yanks
- Elderly
- Despise
- Running shoes
- out; made smooth
- Longest river
- Navy personnel
- Thrilled
- Black-and-white bear
- Corn on the
- Answer an objection
- Build
- Sixty minutes
- Send payment
- "For"; realtor's sign
- Semiaquatic mammal
- On an angle
- More annoying
- Angry look
- Carpets
- Largest spade
- Highway divider
- Diligent pupils
- Grand or spinet
- Complete; total
- Walter & Rex
- Firstborn of two
- Carousel or Ferris wheel
- Kimono fabric, perhaps
- Resound
- Money, slangily
- Border on
- Wild felines
- Pretty woman at the ball
- Compass direction
- Helpful hint
- Take care of
- Fixed

DOWN

- Baseball officials, briefly



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/17/14

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

MET	ARDOR	KISS
AXES	DIANE	IOTA
YEAH	OGLES	TWAS
SKINNIEST	TABS	
VOID	ATE	
OGRESS	LATENESS	
SHARE	MOWED	MAP
CANS	POSED	MIRE
ANT	ARMED	GORGE
RASHNESS	SENSED	
ADS	TUNA	
CROC	ECCENTRIC	
HOOK	NOONS	CRAV
ADZE	CANOE	HOME
REED	EXERT	NET

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7/17/14

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 40 Cone-shaped home | 53 Lasso's loop |
| 43 Goes bad | 54 In a bad mood |
| 45 Most unhappy | 56 "The ___ Piper of Hamelin" |
| 48 Alphabet member | 57 Actor Danza |
| 50 Closer | 58 Likelihood |
| 51 Boggy prairies | 59 Nap |
| 52 Kareem ___ Jabbar | 62 Deli loaf |

Study: Teens' cars are older, smaller, less safe

CHERYL JENSEN

© 2014 New York Times

Many teenagers are driving vehicles that do not offer good crash protection or lack important safety technology, according to research released Wednesday by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, a group financed by the insurance industry.

The study shows that teenagers killed in crashes while behind the wheel are more likely than adults of their parents' age to be driving vehicles that are smaller and older. Larger, heavier vehicles generally provide much better crash protection than small ones, and older vehicles are less likely to be equipped with proven safety enhancements

like electronic stability control and side air bags. Also, the study notes, vehicles' crashworthiness has improved over time.

Data in the report showed that 29 percent of drivers 15 to 17 who were killed in crashes were driving small cars or minicars, compared with 20 percent of drivers 35 to 50 years old. And 82 percent of the teenage motorists who died were driving vehicles at least 6 years old, compared with 77 percent of the adults. Thirty-four percent of the teenage driver fatalities occurred in vehicles that were from 6 to 10 years old, 31 percent were in vehicles from 11 to 15 years old and 17 percent were in vehicles at least 16 years old. □

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202316

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Trying gene therapy to create biological pacemaker

LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — No batteries required: Scientists are creating a biological pacemaker by injecting a gene into the hearts of sick pigs that changed ordinary cardiac cells into a special kind that induces a steady heartbeat.

The study, published Wednesday, is one step toward developing an alternative to electronic pacemakers that are implanted into 300,000 Americans a year.

"There are people who desperately need a pacemaker but can't get one safely," said Dr. Eduardo Marban, director of the Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute in Los Angeles, who led the work.

"This development heralds a new era of gene therapy" that one day might offer them an option.

Your heartbeat depends on a natural pacemaker, a small cluster of cells — it's about the size of a peppercorn, Marban says — that generates electrical activity. Called the sinoatrial node, it acts like a metronome to keep the heart pulsing at 60 to 100 beats a minute or so, more when you're active. If that node quits working correctly, hooking the heart to an electronic pacemaker works very well for most people.

But about 2 percent of recipients develop an infection that requires the pacemaker to be removed for weeks until antibiotics wipe out the germs, Marban said.

And some fetuses are at risk of stillbirth when their heartbeat falters, a con-



This handout photo provided by Cedars-Sinai, taken in Feb. 2014, shows Dr. Eduardo Marban, director of the Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

dition called congenital heart block.

For over a decade, teams of researchers have worked to create a biological alternative that might help those kinds of patients, trying such approaches as using stem cells to spur the growth of a new sinoatrial node.

Marban's newest attempt uses gene therapy to reprogram a small number of existing heart muscle cells so that they start looking and acting like natural pacemaker cells instead. Because pigs' hearts are so similar to human hearts, Marban's team studied the approach in 12 laboratory pigs with a defective heart rhythm.

They used a gene named TBX18 that plays a role in the embryonic development of the sinoatrial node. Working through a vein, they injected the gene into some of the pigs' hearts — in a spot that doesn't normally initiate heartbeats — and tracked them for two weeks.

Two days later, treated

pigs had faster heartbeats than control pigs who didn't receive the gene, the researchers reported in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

That heart rate automatically fluctuated, faster during the day. The treated

animals also became more active, without signs of side effects.

"In essence, we created a new sinoatrial node," Marban said. "The newly created node then takes over as a functional pacemaker, bypassing the need for implanted electronics and hardware."

It's a different type of gene therapy, and a few other genes that might switch one cell type to another are under early study to treat deafness and diabetes, Marban said.

It's not clear how long these newly reprogrammed cells would keep working, cautioned Drs. Nikhil Munshi and Eric Olson of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, who weren't involved in the research but analyzed the findings in a journal commentary.

Also, the gene was deliv-

ered by putting it into a virus engineered to disappear relatively soon afterward. The Texas pair noted that some virus particles landed in the lung and spleen, and that longer studies are needed to rule out safety concerns.

Still, the results "provide an encouraging indication that a biological pacemaker might eventually be ready for human translation," Munshi and Olson concluded.

The heart rate did start to slow a little toward the study's end, but Marban said there's no reason to believe "that the two weeks is somehow a magic cap. We have every reason to believe that this could go on longer."

He said longer-term animal studies are underway, and he hopes to begin first-step human studies in about three years. □

Obama: Climate change a direct threat to U.S. cities



President Barack Obama attends a meeting with state, local, and tribal leaders, Wednesday, July 16, 2014, in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, where he spoke about a series of new actions being taken to support communities facing climate change

Associated Press

JOSH LEDERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Harsher storms, worsening flooding and rising seas threaten the American public's safety and health across the country, President Barack Obama warned Wednesday as he urged local communities to prepare for the effects of climate change.

Joined by top federal officials and local, state and

tribal leaders at the White House, Obama said communities experiencing negative effects firsthand know that climate change is already upon us. He said boosting the nation's resilience and fighting climate change shouldn't be a partisan issue for lawmakers in Washington.

Facing staunch opposition to climate legislation from Congress, Obama has been seeking ways to use

existing authority to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and better respond to climate-related events.

"Climate change poses a direct threat to the infrastructure of America," Obama said.

To help communities prepare, Obama announced new federal resources and grants. Some of the money will help rural communities dealing with drought and help Native American tribes train their officials to deal with climate change. The funding will also promote development of three-dimensional mapping of the U.S. for use in flood and erosion mitigation.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee were among those attending the fourth and final meeting of Obama's 26-person task force, whose mandate was to advise Obama on how the administration can help communities already dealing with climate change. □



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In this Feb. 8, 1964 file photo, Ed Sullivan, center, stands with The Beatles, from left, Ringo Starr, George Harrison, John Lennon, and Paul McCartney, during a rehearsal for the British group's first American appearance, on the "Ed Sullivan Show," in New York.

Associated Press

Ron Howard to direct Beatles documentary

NEW YORK (AP) — Ron Howard will direct a documentary on the Beatles that focuses on the band's touring years during the early 1960s.

Howard announced the project Wednesday. The film is being made with the cooperation of Paul McCartney, Ringo Star, Yoko Ono and Olivia Harrison. The Beatles company, Apple Corps, is co-producing the film.

The as-yet-untitled film is

the second documentary directed by Howard, who said he's long been a Beatles fan. Howard previously made the 2013 Jay-Z documentary "Made in America."

The film will run up to the Beatles' final concert in San Francisco's Candlestick Park in 1966. Much footage for the documentary has already been gathered.

The movie is tentatively slated for release late next year. □

Lincoln Center to stream Seeger memorial concert

NEW YORK (AP) — Lincoln Center in New York says it will offer a live stream from a weekend memorial concert for Pete Seeger and his wife Toshi.

The free concert will be held Sunday at Lincoln Center's Damrosch Park. It will feature artists and speakers who had a close personal relationship with the Seegers. They include Judy Collins, Harry Belafonte, Dar Williams, Peter Yarrow, Holly Near and Tom Chapin.

Lincoln Center notes that Seeger loved to lead singalongs. In that spirit, it's inviting audiences to take part in a global online sin-



This Sept. 21, 2013, file photo shows Pete Seeger performing on stage during the Farm Aid 2013 concert at Saratoga Performing Arts Center in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Associated Press

galong.

A song will be selected later this week and lyrics will be available on-screen.

Audience members also will be able to share video of their renditions. □

Russell's final 'Fast' scenes with Walker brothers

LAURI NEFF

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Kurt Russell confirms he has completed his final two scenes in the latest "Fast & Furious" scenes without the late Paul Walker.

Russell had a day left of shooting when Walker died in a car crash in November outside of Los Angeles.

In an interview this week, the 63-year-old actor said he returned to work on the two scenes left to do with Walker about two months ago.

He said he filmed the scenes with Walker's two brothers Caleb and Cody. The "Fast" team was "trying to work the best magic they can to make 'Fast & Furious 7' complete," Russell said, but did not say whether his scenes had been rewritten.

Russell signed on to the seventh film in the franchise to play the father of Vin Diesel's character Dominic Toretto. Acknowl-



This Sept. 11, 2013 file photo, Actor Kurt Russell arrives at the premiere of "The Art of the Steal" on day 7 of the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto.

Associated Press

edging that Walker's death left the filmmakers in a "tough spot," Russell said the brothers had a great relationship with the "Fast & Furious people" and Diesel had been "really working it hard." The film is to pre-

miere in April 2015.

Russell spoke while promoting the new Netflix documentary, produced by his nephews, about his father Bing's minor-league baseball team, "The Battered Bastards of Baseball." □

Ioan Gruffudd plays revealing role in 'Forever'



Ioan Gruffudd on stage during the "Forever" panel at the Disney/ABC Television Group 2014 Summer TCA at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Tuesday, July 15, 2014, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — Ioan Gruffudd is

used to playing extraordinary characters, but his latest comes with a special challenge.

In the "Fantastic Four" movies, he was the brainy

shapeshifter Mister Fantastic. In ABC's upcoming series "Forever," the Welsh actor plays a man who is fated to die and be reborn over and over — and each time he comes back, he's naked.

"It made me appreciate the fact that I had a mus-

cle suit on as Mister Fantastic," Gruffudd, 39, told a TV critics' summer meeting Tuesday. "I'm not getting younger, so there's a commitment to the cause that one has to make" with diet and exercise.

He plays a New York City medical examiner who's keeping his immortality a secret, with Judd Hirsch playing his sole confidante. Alana de la Garza stars as a police detective who shares cases and chemistry with Gruffudd's Dr. Henry Morgan.

Asked if they would welcome the chance to live forever, Gruffudd and de la Garza had quick replies. "It just feels too painful," he said.

"Outliving your children would just be" she said. "Too much," Gruffudd said, finishing the sentence. □

Marvel Comics makes Thor a thunder goddess

NEW YORK (AP) — Thor is now a Goddess of Thunder.

Marvel Comics announced Tuesday that the hammer-wielding Norse superhero will be a woman in upcoming comic book issues. Marvel was thin on details explaining the switch, but said in a press release that "no longer is the classic male hero able to hold the mighty hammer."

The new Thor was debuted on "The View" where artwork was revealed showcasing a buxom blonde clad a caped costume and brandishing the trademark hammer.

Series writer Jason Aaron says in a statement that "This is not She-Thor. This is not Lady Thor. ... This is THE Thor."

The Marvel universe has historically been male-dom-



This image released by Marvel Comics shows a female superhero who will appear in upcoming Thor comic book issues.

Associated Press

inated, but that may be changing. Marvel Studios is developing a stand-alone film for Black Widow, the character played by Scarlett Johansson.

Bryan Cranston to reprise LBJ role

LOS ANGELES (AP) — HBO says Bryan Cranston reprising his role as President Lyndon Johnson in a TV adaptation of his recent Broadway debut.

HBO Films has acquired rights to the Tony Award-winning play that opened earlier this year to critical and popular success while also winning

Cranston the Tony as best actor.

The company said Wednesday that Robert Schenkkan will adapt his play for HBO.

"All the Way" focuses on Johnson early in his presidency after the death of President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

HBO hasn't specified an air date.

Cranston made his Broadway debut in the play fresh from the much-acclaimed finale of his AMC drama series, "Breaking Bad." He's nominated for a best-actor Emmy for that show.



This file image released by Jeffrey Richards Associates shows Bryan Cranston portraying President Lyndon B. Johnson during a performance of "All the Way."

Associated Press

Harper Lee says she didn't OK new book about her

SHARON COHEN

AP National Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — The reclusive author of "To Kill a Mockingbird," one of the most acclaimed novels of the 20th century, says she never gave her approval to a new memoir that portrays itself as a rare, intimate look into the lives of the writer and her older sister in small-town Alabama. "Rest assured, as long as I am alive any book purporting to be with my cooperation is a falsehood," Harper Lee said in a letter released Monday, just as the new book, "The Mockingbird Next Door: Life with Harper Lee" was about to be released. The book was written by Marja Mills, a former Chicago Tribune reporter, who moved next door to Lee and her sister, Alice, in 2004 and remained there for 18 months.

Mills responded in a statement, saying that Lee and her sister "were aware I was writing this book, and my friendship with both of them continued during and after my time in Monroeville. The stories they shared with me that I recount in the book speak for themselves."

"To Kill a Mockingbird,"



In this Aug. 20, 2007, file photo, author Harper Lee smiles during a ceremony honoring the four new members of the Alabama Academy of Honor at the Capitol in Montgomery, Ala.

Associated Press

published in 1960, is the story of Atticus Finch, a small-town lawyer, his two young children and the fight against racial injustice in Depression-era Alabama. The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel became a movie starring Gregory Peck, who received an Academy Award.

Mills' book describes a friendship that blossomed after she first traveled to Alabama in 2001 to write

about Lee and Monroeville for the Tribune when "To Kill a Mockingbird" was selected to launch Chicago's One Book, One Chicago program. She describes her surprise when Alice invited her in to chat and her shock when Lee called her later and visited her the next day at her motel. Lee did not participate in the newspaper story.

"We had a great rapport from the start," Mills said in an interview before Lee's letter was made public. "I didn't feel entitled to know more than they wanted to tell me."

In the book, Mills describes how she became part of the Lee sisters' social circle, having coffee regularly with the author at McDonald's, sharing catfish suppers, feeding the ducks and taking long country drives. In the interview, Mills says she had built a trust with the two women from her newspaper story and both Lee, then 74, and Alice, 89, were eager to have their family stories preserved.

In her memoir, Mills' quotes Alice Lee on one of the lingering mysteries about her sister: why she never wrote another book.

'Days of Rage' is fast-paced thriller

JEFF AYERS

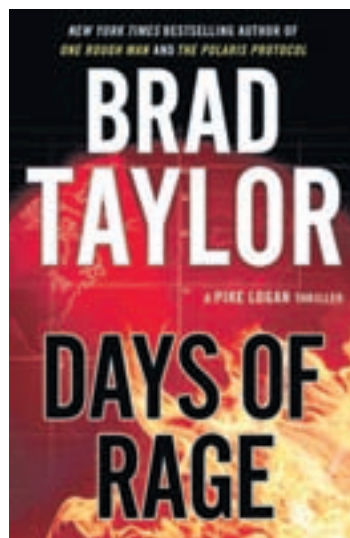
Associated Press

The world of Special Ops seems to be a new trend in publishing, but author Brad Taylor, a former Delta Force operative, knows how to unveil the behind-the-scenes action.

Taylor's main characters Pike Logan and Jennifer Cahill work for a unit called The Taskforce, a secret group of elite men and women who work outside all normal government channels. They plan and carry out their assignments with stealth, and do so well, they operate as an offshoot of the official

organization known to the alphabet agencies as the real Taskforce. In Taylor's latest Pike Logan thriller, "Days of Rage," the enemy has insider knowledge about their clandestine operations.

The team has lost two operatives in what appears to be a routine car crash. Pike is doubtful, since one of the men was an expert in defensive driving. Still, there's no evidence of foul play. When they discover a plot involving the Russians and a wanted terrorist from Nigeria, Pike and Jennifer quickly organize to neutralize the threat.



This book cover image released by "Days of Rage," by Brad Taylor.

Associated Press

Isn't It Rich?



MAUREEN DOWD

© 2014 New York Times

WASHINGTON - Chelsea Clinton never acted out during the eight years she came of age as America's first daughter.

No ditching of her Secret Service detail. No fake IDs for underage tipping. No drug scandal. No court appearance in tank top and toe ring. Not even any dirty dancing.

Despite a tough role as the go-between in the highly public and embarrassing marital contretemps of her parents, Chelsea stayed classy.

So it's strange to see her acting out in a sense now, joining her parents in cashing in to help feed the rapacious, gaping maw of Clinton Inc.

With her 1 percent mother under fire for disingenuously calling herself "dead broke" when she left the White House, why would Chelsea want to open herself up to criticism that she is gobbling whopping paychecks not commensurate with her skills, experience or role in life?

As the 34-year-old tries to wean some of the cronies from the Clinton Foundation - which is, like the Clintons themselves, well-intended, wasteful and disorganized - Chelsea is making speeches that go into foundation coffers. She is commanding, as *The Times*' Amy Chozick reported, up to \$75,000 per appearance.

Chozick wrote: "Ms. Clinton's speeches focus on causes like eradicating waterborne diseases. ('I'm obsessed with diarrhea' is a favorite line.)"

There's something unseemly about it, making one wonder: Why on earth is she worth that much money? Why, given her dabbling in management consulting, hedge-funding and coat-tail-riding, is an hour of her time valued at an amount that most Americans her age don't make in a year? (Median U.S. household income is \$53,046.)

If she really wants to be altruistic, let her contribute the money to some independent charity not designed to burnish the Clinton name as her mother ramps up to return to the White House and as she herself drops a handkerchief about getting into politics.

Or let her speak for free. After all, she is in effect going to candidate school. No need to get paid for it, too.

There was disgust over Politico's revelation that before she switched to a month-to-month contract, Chelsea was getting wildly overpaid at \$600,000 annually - or more than \$25,000 per minute on air - for a nepotistic job as a soft-focus correspondent for

NBC News.

Chelsea is still learning the answer to a question she asked when she interviewed the Geico gecko: "Is there a downside to all this fame?"

The Clintons keep acting as though all they care about is selfless public service. So why does it keep coming back to gross money grabs? It's gone from two-for-the-price-of-one to three-for-the-price-of-20.

Hillary's book - which feels like something she got at Ikea and had someone put together - is drooping because it was more about the estimated \$13 million advance and the campaign ramp-up than the sort of intriguing self-examination and political excavations found in the memoirs of Timothy Geithner and Bob Gates. If she had had something to say, the book might have been shorter.

Hillary doesn't see the disconnect between expressing grave concern about mounting student loan debt while scarfing six-figure sums from at least eight colleges, and counting. She says now that she's passing the university money to the foundation but, never Ms. Transparency, has refused to provide documentation of that. (She's still pocketing other huge fees for speeches like her April talk in Las Vegas to the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries.)

Chozick estimated that the lucrative family speechmaking business has generated more than \$100 million for the former president and first lady, whose fees range from \$200,000 to \$700,000 per appearance. Bill alone earned \$17 million last year doing what he likes to do best - talking.

"The issue is that the philanthropic beneficiary of the speeches is a foundation, structured as a public foundation but clearly synonymous with and controlled by the Clinton family," Rick Cohen writes in *The National Philanthropy Quarterly*, adding: "Donors and institutions that are paying them and their daughter huge sums for their speeches may very well be buying recognition and face time with powerful political leaders who they hope will be able to deliver political favors in the future."

"It is troubling when corporate donors give to political charities with a more or less obvious expectation that softer and gentler treatment will ensue in the future. It is also troubling when some of the payers are public or nonprofit entities themselves such as colleges and universities, converting taxpayer funds and tax-exempt donations into signals that could end up in positive treatment when these institutions are themselves seeking access and favors, even if it is only a good word put in by one of the Clintons to a federal agency providing funding or to a regulator who might be taking a critical look at university tuitions and endowment payouts."

The Clintons were fiercely protective of Chelsea when she was a teenager, insisting on respect from the media and getting it. They need to protect their daughter again, this time from their wanton acquisitiveness. □



How Not To Run a Company



JOE NOCERA

© 2014 New York Times

In the same week that a hedge fund, Standard General, essentially took over American Apparel, Bloomberg Businessweek published an eye-opening story about the company and its founder and former chief executive, Dov Charney. Eye-opening not in the usual manner when it comes to Charney: The magazine didn't uncover any new allegations of sexual harassment, nor did the reporter watch him engaging in oral sex, as a writer from *Jane* magazine once famously witnessed.

Instead, the Businessweek story focused primarily on Charney as a businessman. That's pretty salacious too, or at least it is if you're a management wonk. As it turns out, both Charney and the American Apparel board offer a case study in how not to run a company. Here's the money quote: "All along they were thinking that anything goes in Charneyville," Thomas White, a professor of business ethics at Loyola Marymount University, told Businessweek, speaking of the directors. "They only started to worry when they looked up and saw financial disaster."

Anything goes indeed. That infamous *Jane* magazine story was written a decade ago: That is how long the board has known about his antics. By the middle

of 2005, reports Businessweek, Charney was facing two sexual harassment lawsuits. (One was dismissed in arbitration; the other was settled for \$1.3 million.) Yet when asked about these early allegations, Allan Mayer, a public relations executive who is co-chairman of the board, said, "One of the things you learn when you do crisis management is that where there is smoke, there isn't always fire." Of course, another thing you learn in crisis management is that quite often when there is smoke, there really is fire. But Mayer and the rest of the board simply didn't want to know about it.

Why was the board so willing to look the other way? One reason is that Charney had founded the company. Its identity and that of its founder were intertwined. Charney himself had no other interests outside his company - and his sex life. He viewed himself as indispensable, and the board went along with him. And if his sexually charged advertising helped make American Apparel a hit, well, you could hardly expect the office to be run like a convent.

But he also had the classic flaws of a founder. Though his passion got the company up and running, he lacked the skills necessary for guiding a large enterprise. His micromanaging drove off virtually every talented executive he ever hired. In 2007, after the company went public and he had to bring in a chief financial officer, he told *The Wall Street Journal* that the man he hired was a "complete loser." Which of course caused the man to quit.

He dreamed oversized dreams - even Charney now acknowledges that after the company's IPO he probably expanded more quickly than he should have. He took pride in the fact that American Apparel's clothes were made in America, but when the company was subjected to an immigration audit in 2009, it had to lay off half of

its factory workers, according to Businessweek. "The disruption led to delayed shipments and an expensive hiring and training program."

It has basically been downhill ever since. The company has consistently lost money - while piling up expensive debt - over the last four years. Its sales slowed dramatically. The stock has tanked. It built a new automated distribution center in 2013 that was supposed to save \$5 million a year. Instead, it was so error-riddled that it cost the company "at least \$15 million," says Businessweek.

In February, Mayer, the board director, and a consultant close to Charney took him out to dinner and advised him to bring in some seasoned executives. Instead, in May, Charney forced out the general counsel.

To Businessweek - and to anyone else who will listen - Mayer insists that the board fired him because of his behavior. But it is hard to imagine that it would have done so if the company was still making money. Although American Apparel is still using Charney as a consultant, my guess is that he'll never have a meaningful role at the company again. It needs executives who are grown-ups.

One person who saw it all coming was Robin Lewis, who writes *The Robin Report*, a blog about retailing. In 2011, he noted the departure of a man named Marty Staff, who had been American Apparel's president of business development - and the former chief executive of Hugo Boss. Describing the loss of a pro like Staff as American Apparel's "last chance for survival, lost," he wrote: "Quite frankly, it amazes me that as CEO of a publicly owned company, given American Apparel's financial condition and his questionable and storied behavior, Charney still has a job."

And to think: It only took the American Apparel board three more years to come to the same obvious conclusion. □

Model Citizen: Hearty Cravings, Sometimes Unfulfilled

JULIA MOSKIN

© 2014 New York Times

Chrissy Teigen is not a picky eater.

"I lick the cheese off Doritos and put them back in the bag," she said. "I will eat pretty much anything as long as it's salty. Or sweet. Or spicy."

Teigen is that rare thing, a model who eats. And eats and eats and eats, according to constant posts on Twitter, Instagram and her blog, So Delushious!

"This picture just got me pregnant," she once wrote, lusting after a house-cured pork belly she helped make during a three-week intensive cooking course.

Teigen, 28, is one of the funniest and unlikeliest voices about food on Twitter, where her audience is approaching half a million people; she has more than 700,000 followers on Instagram. Her popularity is probably due first to her appearance in the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue; this year, she was its first Asian-American cover model. Also driving her social media profile is her longtime relationship with singer John Legend; they married last fall.

From their travels and honeymoon in Italy, she posts images of pasta, whole fish and gelato. But in daily life, she's just as likely to put up a beauty shot of a Bloomin' Onion at Outback Steakhouse or of the packets of Cholula hot sauce that she orders in bulk, or a video of herself drunkenly eating Cheetos right off the upholstery of her sofa.

It's probably those last items that earned her a judge spot on MTV's new cooking competition show, "Snack-Off."

Amateur cooks vie to invent a credible snack, using only leftovers and junk food, for maximum appeal to a young audience that is stoned or lazy, or both. (The main ingredients in the first episode were marshmallows, vienna sausages, popcorn and beef jerky.) In "Top Chef" terms, Teigen plays Padma Lakshmi to the chef Eddie Huang's Tom Colicchio - but there the similes end, since the

contestants are so unskilled that making popcorn without a microwave qualifies as an insurmountable challenge.

"I'm the farthest thing from a foodie or a food snob," she said. "Those people terrify me."

But she has great respect for the work of chefs, a high tolerance for chili heat (her mother is Thai) and a terrific appetite for variety. Her

experiences the opposite: Anonymous commenters remark on her "fat" face and "weird" looks. "Putting on that weight momma," one follower said after she posted recent shots from an MTV appearance. She tends to fire back with spirit (and profanity), earning herself even more loyal fans.

Let the record show that Teigen didn't pretend

"Some models survive the time without food by living on coffee and cigarettes," she said. "For me it's red wine and cookbooks."

But in between, she prowls new restaurants (the lasagna verde, a Thursday special at Frank in New York City, is a favorite), is a regular at Taco Bell and binges on ribs and ramen.

Many of Teigen's cooking narratives seem to have

and the two have been together ever since.

Teigen father, Ron, is Norwegian-American; her mother, Vilaluck, is Thai. She grew up in Snohomish, Washington, where there was not even a Thai restaurant, much less a market to buy jasmine rice and curry paste.

"Even in Seattle, you couldn't buy green papayas then," she said. "My



Chrissy Teigen, a model, food blogger and cooking-show judge, at Lure Fishbar in New York. Teigen is one of the funniest and unlikeliest voices about food on Twitter, where her audience is nearing a half-million.

(Nicole Bengiveno/The New York Times)

last meal, she said, would be the unlimited dim sum at Sense, the Cantonese restaurant at the Mandarin Oriental in Tokyo. "Hopefully I could eat myself to death," she said.

Models are famous for claiming in interviews that they regularly indulge in doughnuts and In-N-Out burgers. But the punishingly low body mass index demanded by the fashion industry doesn't allow for many indulgences and prompts skepticism. Social media like Instagram has become a forum for "thin-shaming" posts, calling out stick-thin models and celebrities who say they eat "normally" and claim that they never exercise.

Teigen more often ex-

periences the opposite: Anonymous commenters remark on her "fat" face and "weird" looks. "Putting on that weight momma," one follower said after she posted recent shots from an MTV appearance. She tends to fire back with spirit (and profanity), earning herself even more loyal fans.

Let the record show that Teigen didn't pretend to eat much at a recent lunch, as she was about to put on a tight orange lace minidress for the awards ceremony of the Council of Fashion Designers of America. She clearly knew her way around the estimable Bash Burger at Lure Fishbar (served on a potato bun, topped with a caramelized onion and bacon jam, American cheese and shaved pickles) but ate exactly one king crab leg and one sushi hand roll.

been posted when Legend is touring and she's home in Los Angeles, passing the time with a bottle of wine and a cooking project like deviled eggs, seared scallops or eggless Caesar salad dressing. Or seriously not-on-a-diet, opposite-of-Gwyneth-Paltrow recipes, like "cream cheese stuffed jalapeño peppers with bacon and sausage and unicorns and fairies and vodka wait no vodka but everything else good in the world."

Fortunately for the 5-foot-8 Teigen, she occupies a niche in the fashion industry reserved for "curvy girls": swimwear model. She was hired to stand around in black lingerie in Legend's 2006 video for "Stereo,"

mom kind of gave up and learned to cook corned beef and cabbage instead."

Teigen didn't start cooking until well after she'd left home, and she's still cautious about attempting her mother's Thai recipes. She has, however, mastered jok moo, a long-simmered rice soup with savory pork meatballs and aromatic toppings of fresh ginger, scallion, cilantro and chilies. Leela Punyaratabandhu, the author of "Simple Thai Cooking," said that the creaminess of the rice, the bite of the fresh ginger and the tender bounciness of the pork meatballs pull the dish together into a craveable, eat-it-every-day breakfast. □